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75¢

Marijuana bill passes House

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In a three-hour session, the CNMI House of Representatives passed the cannabis legalization bill yesterday, naming it after the late David K. Peter.

In a vote of 18-1-1, with one opposition and one abstention, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-178 passed on first and final reading, with Rep. Donald Barcina (R-Saipan) voting against it and Vice Speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) abstaining from voting.

The bill legalizes the use of cannabis in the CNMI for recreational and medicinal purposes and creates the Cannabis Commission to oversee any associated industries and imposes taxes, fees, and fines.

The next step is for the CNMI Senate to pass the bill. An earlier version of the bill passed the Senate.

The bill, which was first introduced in the Senate through Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) in the 19th Legislature and once more in the current Legislature as Senate Bill 20-62, was previously shelved after being deemed a revenue generating bill, making it illegal according to the

IN SUMMARY

HB 20-178 passes CNMI House of Representatives, 18-1-1

Next up: CNMI Senate

Author: Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan)

- Allows adults 21 and older and patients with certain medical conditions to possess limited amounts of marijuana (one ounce), marijuana-infused products (16 ounces in solid form, 72 ounces in liquid form), and marijuana extracts (five grams);
- Creates a Homegrown Marijuana Registry, through which adults and patients can register to grow a limited number of marijuana plants (six mature and 12 immature or up to twice that amount in the case of medical need) for personal use;
- Directs Legislature to enact taxes and fees on all marijuana sold by a producer, as well as an excise tax on retail sales of marijuana for adult use (medical marijuana is exempt);
- Provides for six types of regulated marijuana businesses: producers, testing facilities, processors, retailers, wholesalers, and lounges; and
- Establishes a nine-member appointed CNMI Cannabis Commission.

The CNMI would be the first U.S. territory to legalize and regulate marijuana for adult use. Such laws have been adopted by voters in eight states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Lawmakers in Vermont and voters in D.C. have adopted laws making marijuana possession and cultivation legal for adults, but not regulating commercial production or sales.

Source: Marijuana Policy Project



CNMI Constitution, which states that revenue-generating bills may only originate from the House.

A House lawmaker, Deleon Guerrero, later agreed to re-introduce it in the House.

The House version, like the Senate version, proposes nine commissioners for the Cannabis Commission—five representing Saipan and two each representing Rota and Tinian. However, Rep. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) proposed to limit the number of commissioners to only five—three representing Saipan and one each representing Rota and Tinian. The amendment was ultimately adopted.

The bill was further amended by Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) to recognize the efforts of Igisomar on the Senate version of the bill and to rename the bill at the request of the senator.

The cannabis legalization bill, which is now called the "Taulum-waar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018," was named after Peter, who was an advocate for the substance over four years ago.

Sensible CNMI was also cited as an organization that advocate for marijuana law reforms in the CNMI.

A Marijuana Policy Project statement quoted Gerry Hemley, co-founder of Sensible CNMI, as saying: "The true essence of legalization has always been about having safe and legal access to cannabis without

See MARIJUANA on Page 4

No runoff election

» 97 candidates vying for 45 positions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero filed her candidacy as an

BOE to move forward with lawsuit

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education will be moving forward in suing the CNMI government to finally settle the issue over what

constitutes the mandated 25 percent funding that PSS should get from general revenues.

BOE chair MaryLou S. Ada said they had given the CNMI House of Representatives enough time to answer the questions but it still failed to

give an answer even before the July 31 deadline. The lawsuit would be filed at the CNMI Supreme Court.

The BOE, in their last board meeting in June, decided to postpone the filing of the lawsuit and gave a

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Trump will go ahead with a 25-percent tariffs on an \$16 billion in Chinese imports.

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Firefighters struggle to slow the spread of the biggest wildfire ever recorded in California.

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Indonesia struggles to recover the dead from the earthquake that rocked Lombok.

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Local

Human skull found underwater near Garapan Fishing Base



Photo shows the skull that was found underwater several feet away from a wreckage near the Garapan Fishing Base Tuesday afternoon.

AQUASMITH

The Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit officers recovered yesterday afternoon a human skull found underwater near the Garapan Fishing Base.

A diver with Aquasmith Pacific reported the find to DPS, saying he discovered the skull

on Tuesday at 4pm, according to DPS spokesperson Jacqueline Rae.

Rae said the diver was on a spear fishing tour with a client when they approached an underwater wreckage. About

75 feet to 100 feet from the wreckage, the diver noticed

what he initially believed to be a rock.

When the diver attempted to pick it up, the current shifted, causing him to notice it was actually a human skull.

The diver notified DPS and yesterday at 2pm, he accompanied the Boating Safety of-



ficers to the Garapan Fishing Base and guided the officers to where he saw the skull.

Rae said the officers will search for any additional remains and thoroughly canvas the area.

"In the meantime, officials will process the skull to determine its origin," Rae said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

A police officer holds a human skull that officers sealed in a plastic bag for processing yesterday afternoon.

DPS PHOTO

Request to reopen a probate that was closed 40 years ago denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied yesterday a motion to re-open a probate of an estate of a deceased person that was closed 40 years ago.

Camacho ruled that the Probate Court balances the justifiable circumstances that will or should reopen a probate matter—such as property that was unintentionally omitted from the estate or to allow quiet title

actions where property of the estate was misidentified and mistakenly distributed.

In this case, Camacho said, there is no evidence that any assets were inadvertently omitted from the Vicente Reubenog estate, nor where there any mistakes made in probating the estate.

Probate court decisions should have a sense of finality, he said, so family members and their descendants shall have confidence of land ownership.

Equally important, Camacho said, there are other more suitable mechanisms available to Ignacia T. Saures to force the partition of an undivided property and does not require reopening a probate that was closed 40 years ago.

"Reopening a closed probate in essence requires the court to reach back in time and disturb a decision that has hardened over the years, a court decision that families, businesses and commer-

See REQUEST on Page 4

Meet Peachy:

Peachy Quitugua is a Registered Nurse with the Labor and Delivery Unit at CHCC. She is there with mothers during the first few hours of birth, promoting skin-to-skin bonding and benefits of breastfeeding. Her greatest joy on the job is witnessing the process of labor, birth and the bonding between a mother and child. Peachy helps mothers understand the importance of the first milk (Colostrum) and guides them with different types of positions for the newborn to breastfeed. One of the things that Peachy reminds mothers is that breastfeeding can take time and not to give up so easily because of the benefits it will have on their newborn.

Thank you Peachy for helping raise the breastfeeding rates in the CNMI!



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Bill pushes review of rental vehicle regulations

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a Senate bill proposing to

OPD wants juvenile court to handle minors' traffic cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender believes traffic cases involving persons who commit traffic offenses while under 18 years old should be handled by the juvenile court.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, who is representing two persons facing traffic charges, asked the Superior Court to have the cases transferred to juvenile court in accordance with the Commonwealth Juvenile Justice Act.

Zona said her 18-year-old client was charged on Jan. 30, 2017, for allegedly driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, among other things.

Under the Vehicle Code, a person with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.01 percent or more for a person under the age of 21 shall not drive, op-



Zona

regulate motor vehicle rental companies in the CNMI, effectively sending the bill to the Governor's Office for review.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-55

erate or be in actual physical control of any vehicle.

Zona said that, at the time of the alleged violation, as noted in the citation, her client was 17 years of age.

In the second case, Zona said, her 16-year-old client was charged on Oct. 14, 2017, with DUI, among other things.

At the time of alleged violation, and as noted on the citation, Zona's client was 16 years old.

Zona pointed out that the Commonwealth Juvenile Justice Act provides that the Superior Court shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction over any juvenile and over any adult who was a juvenile at the time of an alleged offense.

The Act further provides that this chapter shall not apply to juvenile violators of non-felony-level traffic statutes, except a juvenile charged with DUI, Zona said.

She said the Common-

flew past the House with no discussions.

The bill proposes to regulate motor vehicle rental companies. Regulations include disallowing rental compa-

wealth Code defines "juvenile" as "any person less than 18 years of age or who was less than 18 years of age at the time of any act, commission or status..."

Zona said that, at the time of the alleged offenses, her first client was 17 years old and other was 16 years old, and therefore juveniles.

She said the charges include DUI. As such, Zona said, the Juvenile Justice Act code gives exclusive jurisdiction to the juvenile court.

She said it is in the interest of judicial economy to have these two cases transferred to the juvenile court.

She asked that the bench trial set for Sept. 12, 2018, in the first case and Oct. 4, 2018, in the second case in traffic court be vacated.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho vacated yesterday the Sept. 13 bench trial in the first case and Oct. 4 bench trial in the second case, and set the hearing on the motion to transfer on Dec. 5, 2018.

nies to rent or lease a rental motor vehicle to individuals not in immediate possession of a valid picture operator's license, as issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or BMV.

The bill also requires rental company to have an English translation of the rental agreement, with a clear copy of the driver's license attached to it or any foreign language version of a rental agreement with an English translation

and clear copy of the primary driver's picture operator's license attached to it.

The bill does not allow rental companies to offer rental agreement or damage waivers unless a copy of the rental agreement or damage waiver is sent to the Secretary of Commerce prior to its use.

It protects the consumer, which the bill presumes are mostly foreign, from mandatory additional charges by having the rental companies immediately disclose any charges associated with the rental of the vehicle.

"The rental company shall disclose as part of any quotations of price, including all quotations contained in advertising or by telephone, all payments a renter must make in order to rent the vehicle, including all charges provided," the bill stated.

According to the bill, the legislation intends to protect renters from unfair or deceptive acts by rental companies.

"It is long overdue for rental companies to be regulated by the Commonwealth for the benefit of the people," the bill stated.

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ELECTION*From Page 1*

Education Saipan position at yesterday's deadline to submit candidacy papers.

This brings to 97 the total number of candidates who will be seeking the voters' nod for 45 positions up for grabs in the coming Nov. 6 general election.

As there are only two teams running for governor and lieutenant governor, there will be no runoff election, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez.

Villagomez said the drawing of the candidates' slot in the ballots for Saipan and Rota will be held tomorrow, Friday.

The drawing of candidates' slot for Tinian was done yesterday.

Aside from Edith Deleon Guerrero, others who beat yesterday's deadline to file their candidacies were Joseph A. Borja, Ervin Cruz and Nika Mendiola for the Tinian Municipal Council, and Joana Lyn Camacho and Jonathan SN. Sablan for Board of Education position.

Edith Deleon Guerrero said she wants to pursue the uncollected \$400,000 public funds, stop collusion and malfeasance in public office, restore public trust, promote and build a diversified economy, among other things.

"The CNMI government belongs to the people and the people's interest must be protected," Deleon Guerrero said in a statement.

She said the future of the islands must be protected and is not for sale either.

"We must not be exploited nor sold alive with our motherland," Deleon Guerrero said.

The ruling Republican Party has 33 candidates led by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Senate

President Arnold I. Palacios, and Rep. Angel A. Demapan.

Torres and Palacios are running for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, while Demapan is seeking the position of the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Forty-two are running as independents led by former governor Juan N. Babauta, former Public School System commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Babauta and Sablan are eyeing the governor and lieutenant governor seat, respectively, while Sablan is seeking his sixth term as the CNMI's non-voting representative in Congress.

For the Democratic Party, it has only two candidates—Glenn Hocog Manglona for Precinct 1 House of the Representatives and Peter Francis Reyes Muna for Precinct 5 House of the Representatives.

For non-partisans, Attorney General Edward Eladio Manibusan is unopposed in his re-election bid as AG, while Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro and Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio are also on the ballots for retention on the bench.

Saipan Tribune did not include the justice's and the judge's positions in the 45 up for grabs. There are 19 non-partisan candidates for the municipal council and Board of Education positions.

In the Saipan mayoral race, Mayor David M. Apatang is seeking re-election as a Republican, while Ramon Blas Camacho is challenging Apatang as an independent.

In the Tinian mayoral race, the Republican has fielded Edwin Palacios Aldan, while Henry Hofsneider San Nicolas is running as an independent.

It's a crowded race in the Rota mayoral polls. Mayor

Edraim M. Atalig (R) is seeking re-election. Atalig is being challenged by four independent candidates—Steve King Mesngon, Julie Marie Ogo Manglona, Richard Evangelista Taisacan, and Crispin Ayuyu.

For the Northern Islands, the Republican's Diego Litu-lumar Kaipat is challenging the independent candidacy of incumbent mayor Vicente Cruz Santos Jr.

For the Senate, there are six seats—two each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For Senate Saipan, the Republican candidates are Justo Songao Quitugua and Joseph Pinaula Deleon Guerrero. Independent candidates are Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan, Heinz Sablan Hofschneider, and Edith Deleon Guerrero.

For Tinian Senate, the Republican bets are Jude Untalan Hofsneider and Francisco Quichocho Cruz. Independent candidates are Juanita Masga Mendiola and Eric Henry Cruz San Nicolas.

For Rota Senate, it's also a crowded race. the Republican candidates are Lt. Gov. Victor Borja Hocog and Felix Mundo Santos. There are four independents: Teresita Apatang Santos, Albert Atalig Taitano, Joel Gogue Charfauros, and Jovita Maratita Taimanao.

For the House, there are 20 seats—six for Precinct 1; two for Precinct 2; six for Precinct 3; two for Precinct 4; two for Precinct 5; one for Precinct 6 (Tinian); and one for Precinct 7 (Rota).

The Republican has filled all 20 House seats, two are Democrats, and 23 are independents.

For Precinct 1, the Republican bets are Janet Ulloa Maratita, Joseph Leepan Tenorio Guerrero, Luis John Deleon Guerrero Castro, Roman Cepeda Benavente, Gregorio M. Sablan Jr., and Ray-

mond Ulloa Palacios.

The independent candidates for Precinct 1 are Joseph Arriola Flores, Lino Sablan Tenorio, Edwin Kenneth Propst, Franklin Reyes Babauta, Dorotho Anthony Kisa, and Samantha Birmingham Babauta. The Democratic Party's Glenn Hocog Manglona is running for Precinct 1.

For Precinct 2, the Republican candidates are House Speaker Rafael Sablan Demapan and John Paul Palacios Sablan. The independents are Christina Marie "Tina" Sablan and Isabel Pangelinan Matsunaga.

For Precinct 3, the Republican candidates are Ralph Naraja Yumul, Ivan Blanco, Jonathan "BJ" Blas T. Attao, Jose Ilo Itibus, Donald Barcinas, and Francisco Santos Dela Cruz.

The independent candidates for Precinct 3 are Luis Selepeo Tilipao, Mariano Deleon Guerrero Fajardo, Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres, Vicente Castro Camacho, David Castro Sablan, and Edmund Sablan Villagomez.

For Precinct 4, the Republican bets are Joel Castro Camacho and Alice Santos Igitol. The independents are Cecilia R. Taitano, Malcolm Jason Omar, and Sheila Therese Jack Babauta.

For Precinct 5, the Republican has Lorenzo Iglesias Deleon Guerrero and Francisco Concepcion Aguon. The independents are Juan Cepeda Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Muna Mendiola, and Richard Tudela Lizama. The Democratic has Peter Francisco Reyes Muna.

For Precinct 6 (Tinian), the Republican has Antonio San Nicolas Borja, while Frederick Arend Dela Cruz is running as an independent.

For Precinct 7 (Rota), the Republican's candidate is Glenn Lizama Maratita, while the independents are Don-

ald Manalang Manglona and Thomas Taimanao Atalig.

For municipal council, there are nine positions—three each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. All are non-partisan candidates.

For Saipan municipal council, candidates are Thomas Sablan Muna, Debra Lynn Tenorio Camacho, Ana Demapan-Castro, and Antonia Manibusan Tudela.

For Tinian municipal council, the candidates are Esteven SN. King Jr., Patrick A. Manglona, Thomasa Palacios Mendiola, Joseph A. Borja, Ervin Cruz, and Ni-

kita Mendiola.

For Rota municipal council, the candidates are Lucia Songsong Manglona, Alexander Apatang, Anthony Wayne Dela Cruz Barcinas, Simeon Evangelista Taisacan, and George Ogo Hocog.

For Board of Education, there are two vacant seats—one for Saipan and one for Tinian.

For Saipan, Andrew L. Orsini, Antonia Manibusan Tudela, and James Rayphand are running. For Tinian, Joana Lyn Camacho and Jonathan SN Sablan are seeking the lone position.

BOE*From Page 1*

monthlong deadline for the CNMI Legislature to answer their questions.

"Yes, we are filing [the lawsuit]. July 31 was the last day to hear from the House whether they want to join us or not," said Ada during a recess in yesterday's board meeting at their office conference room.

"Now that they have not done anything, we're moving forward. So our legal counsel [Ryan Meyerhoff] would be filing. All the research work is done, so we're moving forward with it. It will be filed. When? We don't know yet."

The BOE wants the Supreme Court to finally clarify the provisions as what's stated on the CNMI Constitution to guide future administrations in appropriating the budget for the CNMI educational system.

"It's going to be a lawsuit to implore the central government to come out what are really general revenues of the

Commonwealth. So that we can, for once and for all, put this matter to rest," said Ada.

"Because some are saying that general revenues are after all obligations of the CNMI government. Our contention is that everything that touches the general fund is general revenue."

She added that it's already too late for the House to send their answers to the question since the deadline had already passed. "It's too late. July 31st was our deadline and it was not met. We remained vigilant to stick to that date and file it."

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from House Speaker Ralph S. Demapan but he said that he has yet to finish reading the opinion penned by House legal counsel John Cool.

The Office of the Governor, meanwhile, declined to comment until they receive a copy of the pending complaint that the BOE will file. The Governor's Office is involved in identifying the funds and other budgetary resources of the CNMI government.

REQUEST*From Page 2*

cial entities have relied upon," he said.

Camacho said the further back in time the probate was closed and finalized, the higher the probability of disruption the families, business and commercial entities' expectations and reliance on the court's decision.

According to court records, on Aug. 18, 1978, a court found Ignacia T. Pua (now Ignacia T. Saures) an heir of Vicente Rebuenog and entitled to a one-fifth share of the estate of Vicente Rebuenog.

The 1978 judgment further found that Adela Lifoifo, Pedro Rebuenog, Teodore Selepeo, and Antonia Kani are natural children of Vicente Rebuenog. Each was entitled to a one-fifth share in the estate.

In denying the motion to reopen, Camacho emphasized that the court has all the necessary and proper power and authority to reopen a probate when justice requires.

However, Camacho said, the probate court weighs petitioner's request to reopen a probate against the fact that petitioner has other less drastic legal mechanisms available.

PSS has enough teachers, assures Muña

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Interim education commissioner Glenn Muña assured the Board of Education yesterday that the CNMI Public School System has filled all the teaching positions needed for school year 2018-2019.

During yesterday's board meeting on Capital Hill, Muña said that PSS did lose some teachers but are going to welcome new ones, giving them enough instructors for all public schools when classes start next week.

"Altogether, we were able to hire 27 new teachers. ... We're fully staffed, with the exception of Early Head Start where one teacher resigned last week due to medical reasons," he said.

He added that EHS program director Lathania Santos has been doing interviews and they will be expediting the contract and other documents in order to get the new teacher on board before the start of EHS classes. "We only have one school [that] still has a pending teacher-to-hire as a result of a last-minute resignation. Their human resources are currently working with the principal and we already had a recommendation that we submitted. We're routing and expediting the papers to have the staff report to work before the opening of the school year."

Aside from teachers, PSS also hired two instructors for the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, four coaches, two classroom teachers for Head Start, two Special Education teachers, and one Early Intervention occupational therapist.

"This is just to fill in the vacancies. This year, we're very pleased with the eligibility list and for the first time in many years, we actually have a sufficient number of teachers to fill the vacancies that we have," said Muña.

"A lot of the principals weren't stressing over the summer, since many of them have already hired their teachers way before today

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Hidden Beach, Jeffery's Beach, Old Man By The Sea, Marine Beach, North Laulau, and Ladder Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained ex-

JON PEREZ
CNMI State Public School System interim commissioner Glenn Muña, left, listens to a question by Board of Education teacher representative Paul Miura in yesterday's board meeting at the BOE's conference room on Capital Hill.

[Wednesday]. Our principals are welcoming them and providing professional development."

He added that they are also in the process of completing the student achievement academic report that the principals and vice principals will be presenting this week. "Once we finish dissecting and segregating the data, we will be presenting them to the board."

Muña said school administrators have been working closely with their teachers and staff after returning from their summer vacations to ensure the school opening would run smoothly.

In a separate interview, PSS assistant commissioner for instructional services Jackie Quitugua told Saipan Tribune that they are prepared for the Aug. 15 opening of classes and had just also finished with a professional development for their teachers.

"From staffing and facilities, [to] instructional materials, everything is good to go. We're pretty busy but all the schools are ready to open," Quitugua said.

Muña added that PSS would also have an opening celebration on Monday, Aug. 13, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium at 8am. It is for all teachers and staff. "We're excited to kick off the school year. Hopefully, we can inspire the teachers to continue to make the difference this school year."

Muña has invited BOE chair MaryLou S. Ada to give the welcoming remarks while the keynote speakers will be CNMI Superior Court Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, BOE student representative Pionnah Gregorio, and Saipan Southern High School graduate Maria Guerrero.



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IT&E

Gross hopes Micro Games would motivate NMI athletes

Regardless of the overall medal tally, Nick Gross believes the CNMI's recent participation in the two-week Micro Games in Yap captures the increasing level of sports skills in the region.

Gross, who is the Public School System's athletic director, also hopes the CNMI's participation in the Micro Games would "reignite that fire" within Saipan athletes for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games that will be held on Saipan and the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Speaking at Tuesday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency



Saipan, Gross recounted the CNMI's successful participation in the Micro Games, noting the emergence of competitiveness in sports in the CNMI and its implication for CNMI athletes in future islandwide sports events.

Gross acknowledged Yap's competence to stage the huge competition, "It was a true stress test on their infrastructure and their ability to put on such a big event. Kudos to Yap and their delegation," said Gross.

At the Micro Games, Gross

competed in javelin, shot put, and indoor volleyball, vying against teams representing the Marshall Islands, Palau, Kiribati, Guam, Yap, Nauru, Chuuk, and Kosrae. He placed third in the javelin section and earned fourth place in shot put.

"The level of playing is beyond what we are accustomed to seeing here on island and it was incredible to be part of it," he said.

He believes it was a lesson learned for CNMI athletes and hopes it will motivate them to

do well at the upcoming Pacific Mini Games on Saipan and Pacific Games in Samoa.

He wishes for athletes and sports programs to start prepar-

ing now for a chance for the CNMI community to shine and stand out. This will also be a chance for Saipan to further improve its sports infrastructure.

Rotary president Greg Borja is already looking forward to the Pacific Mini Games. "It's

[going to be] an experience for our athletes. It will take a lot in terms of infrastructure. Like Nick said, about 1,300 to 1,500 athletes who will potentially be coming to our island from all around the Pacific," said Borja. **(Fahim Uddin)**

NEWS BRIEFS

Donation at JKPL

On Thursday, Aug. 2, Herman T. Guerrero and Norbert Sablan donated to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library a copy of the yearbook of the 50th reunion of the Father Dueñas Memorial School in Guam. This book will be added to the Pacific Room collection as part of the library's archives

on the history and culture of the Pacific islands. **(PR)**

National Relaxation Day DIY craft class

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will have a DIY Craft Class on Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, from 2pm to 3pm to celebrate National Relaxation Day. In the class, we will be

making do-it-yourself spa treatments from everyday ingredients! Examples include sugar scrubs, masks, and more! Seats are limited; sign up in the library or online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/cqPB-STTfuP2pb6rn>! Signing up and a library card is required to participate. For ages 13 and up. **(PR)**

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
UMDA Wholesale/Retail, Inc.
dba Island Apparel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc. dba Island Apparel is proposing to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville and occupy an existing one-storey building for manufacturing and processing of apparels. This project is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 023 I 02 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Ya Myoung Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ya Myoung Corporation is proposing to relocate and occupy Room No. 1-1 on the ground floor of an existing building to manufacture and process Noni juice. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in Chalan LauLau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

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Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Yumiko Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yumiko Corporation is proposing to occupy Unit No. GF-1 of the American Tour Inn building to operate a Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop. This project is classified as "Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H 314-2-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
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Multipurpose Center, Susupe

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
American Sinopan, LLC
dba Capitol Hill Residence

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. American Sinopan, LLC dba Capitol Hill Residence is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit No. 2017- 2409 (Heaven II Resort) to include the construction of 12 residential villas and a clubhouse as part of their Phase II Heaven II project. This use is classified as "Planned Development/Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR22667-2-R1, TR22667-5, and TR22667-R5 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Eunice SPN Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Eunice SPN Corporation is proposing to occupy 2 existing one-storey structures with a total of 5 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 399-3-1-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
RJCL Corporation
dba RNV Construction

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to renovate and occupy three (3) existing one-storey structures with a total of 25 beds for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Rayphand declares candidacy for BOE

James M. Rayphand has thrown his hat in the ring and will be running for an elective seat on the Board of Education, representing Saipan.

Rayphand, who is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., said it makes sense "for me to try and contribute" at the Board of Education level, having spent much of his adult life working in and around the local education system.

"I suspect that other members of the Board will find me to be a sensible colleague with some direct insight into and practical knowledge of our Public School System," he said.

A father of four (two who attend colleges in the United States and two who are in primary school in the local PSS, Rayphand said, "My kids have been the central focus of my life over the course of the last 20-plus years and I owe a great debt of gratitude to our Public School System and the numerous people throughout for their parts in raising them with me. I really can't imagine parenting without the support I've gotten and continue to get from our schools' support staff and teachers alike."

Rayphand began his professional career as a classroom teacher at San Vicente Elementary School where he would later become vice principal and eventually acting principal for a few years before accepting a job with the NMPASI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

James M. Rayphand, center, meets with long-time friends and Committee-to-Elect James M. Rayphand members Kodep Ogomoro-Uludong, chair, and Cleo Nening, treasurer.

Rayphand said, "My kids have been the central focus of my life over the course of the last 20-plus years and I owe a great debt of gratitude to our Public School System and the numerous people throughout for their parts in raising them with me. I really can't imagine parenting without the support I've gotten and continue to get from our schools' support staff and teachers alike."

NMPASI, among other things, provide direct representation for students with disabilities in their efforts to secure "free appropriate public education."

Additionally, Rayphand sits as a voting member on the Special Education State Advisory Panel and the Interagency Coordinating Council, both of which are mandated advisory boards for Part B and Part C of the Special Education Program within PSS.

"Like every other member of our community, I have a

vested interest in our education system," he said. "I consider it part of my inherent responsibility to ensure that it continues to provide appropriate educational and other

training opportunities and that it stays responsive to the needs and desires of the community in pursuit of its objective to develop our community's human potential."

As a hobby of sorts, Rayphand runs a small pig farming operation.

"It's important for me that our kids, in addition to getting a solid academic experience through school, also get the hands-on experience of practical, physical labor at home," he said.

"As you might imagine, I'm a big fan of vocational education, though not necessarily as an alternative to academics but rather as a supplement. I think too many of us tend to think of the two as being mutually exclusive when maybe we ought to be figuring out how to better intertwine them."

Asked about what he hopes to accomplish as a member of the BOE, he said, "Maybe this will sound too simplistic, but we need to keep in perspective the intent of our BOE, which is simply to formulate policy in order to appropriately administer a public education and to

exercise control over the Public School System through the Commissioner of Education. That's what I intend to do. But, what that takes is a willingness to listen to the needs from inside the system, a capacity to understand and relate those needs to the interests of our students and then be able to facilitate a consensus in order to provide for those needs. Again in the simplest of terms, that's what I intend to do."

For people wanting to help either with his campaign or with efforts to improve our education system, he asks that they share their ideas on what they view as being needed to make our education system stronger or ideas about what they'd like to see from the BOE. People can reach him directly at via email at jim-rayphand@gmail.com or via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/votejimboe/>. (PR)

Nissan recalls 2007-2008 Nissan Versa sedans, hatchbacks

Nissan North America is recalling 233 model year 2007-2008 Nissan Versa sedans and hatchbacks originally sold, or ever registered, in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Mis-

souri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands

» The passenger front airbag inflator may explode

The passenger airbag inflators may explode due to propellant degradation due to exposure to humidity and temperature cycling.

An exploding inflator may result in metal fragments strik-

ing the vehicle occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

Nissan will notify owners, and dealers will replace the passenger front airbag inflator, free of charge.

The recall began July 25, 2018. Owners may contact Nissan customer service at 1-800-867-7669. (www.consumeraffairs.com)

NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLY... YOUR BACK TO SCHOOL HEADQUARTERS

BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPER SAVINGS SALE

30% OFF on ALL regular priced items except items already on sale!

Sale Starts Now and Ends August 31, 2018

Open Monday - Saturday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm • Sunday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

National Office Supply

BEACH ROAD, SOUTH GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Tel. Nos. (670) 234-3197 to 9
Store Fax No. (670) 235-3373 Office Fax No. (670) 234-3549

US Labor does wage survey on Guam projects

GUAM—The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division is conducting a building, heavy, highway, and residential construction survey in Guam to collect data to establish prevailing wage rates, as required under the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts.

The survey is not limited to federally funded construction projects, and covers active building, heavy, highway and residential construction projects in Guam between May 1, 2017, and April 30, 2018.

"Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates should reflect the actual wages and fringe benefits paid to construction workers in the county where the work takes place. The U.S.

Department of Labor needs the full participation of the Guam construction industry community to set prevailing wage rates," said the Wage and Hour Division's acting regional administrator Juan Coria. "Full participation by contractors and interested parties will allow us to provide accurate prevailing wages and to create complete wage determinations which, in turn, reduces the need for contractors to request additional classifications."

Notification letters and data collection forms, called WD-10s, are being sent to interested parties and contractors known to the Wage and Hour Division. Data must be postmarked by Aug. 31, 2018, to be included. If you

would like to participate, or have questions regarding the survey process and forms,

contact Helen Thach at (415) 241-3530 or Rose Huynh at (415) 241-3539.

To complete the survey electronically, visit www.dol.gov/whd/programs/dbra/

wd10/index.htm. You do not need a letter to answer the survey. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 16

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Aug. 16, 2018, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker for the meeting will be Dr. William Moss, ENT specialist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamaranas@gmail.com. (PR)

Public library closed on Aug. 25

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in celebration of CNMI Labor Day. The library will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow us on Instagram @joetenkiyu. The library's hours of operation are as follows: from Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm; Saturday, from 9am to 4pm; and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. (PR)

information, contact commission chair Hope A. Cristobal at 483-0097 or commission secretary Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

NMC employees' training this week

Today and tomorrow—Aug. 9 and 10—the following Northern Marianas College departments will be closed:

- All academic offices
- Office of Admissions and Records
- Counseling Office
- Financial Aid Office
- Library / Archives
- Office of Institutional Effectiveness

■ Office of the LSS VP / Office of the LSS Dean

- Project PROA Office
- UCEDD

These employees will be taking part in professional development activities. These offices will resume normal business hours and operations on Monday, Aug. 13, 2018. For information regarding the upcoming fall 2018 semester, visit marians.edu. (NMC)

Power interruption on Aug. 11

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a power interruption on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 5am to 10am, affecting Koblerville. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected. Five power poles will be replaced. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (CUC)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 10, from 11am to 2pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the Farallon de Medinilla. (PR)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 23, 2018

5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1979:** Ya Myoung Corporation is proposing to relocate and occupy Room No. 1-1 on the ground floor of an existing building to manufacture and process Noni juice. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in Chalan LauLau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1998:** RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to renovate and occupy three (3) existing one-storey structures with a total of 25 beds for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2248:** Eunice SPN Corporation is proposing to occupy 2 existing one-storey structures with a total of 5 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 399-3-1-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2259:** Yumiko Corporation is proposing to occupy Unit No. GF-1 of the American Tour Inn building to operate a Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop. This project is classified as "Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H 314-2-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2711:** UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc. dba Island Apparel is proposing to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville and occupy an existing one-storey building for manufacturing and processing of apparels. This project is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 023 I 02 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
6. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2834:** American Sinopan, LLC dba Capitol Hill Residence is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit No. 2017-2409 (Heaven II Resort) to include the construction of 12 residential villas and a clubhouse as part of their Phase II Heaven II project. This use is classified as "Planned Development/Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR22667-2-R1, TR22667-5, and TR22667-R5 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business:

1. Update on proposed amendments to the Zoning Law

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Oguromo, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ *Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman*



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE MAIN PARKING LOT EXPANSION AND STORM WATER DRAIN REHABILITATION PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-15

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the design and construction to expand the main parking lot at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and rehabilitate the storm water drainage. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering Department at telephone number 670-237-6500 or fax number 670-664-3533. Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax at 670-664-3533 or via email at wprater@cpa.gov.mp or cpa.enqr@pticom.com by no later than close of business on **Friday, August 24, 2018**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in **Section XII, PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**, of the Scope of Work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

One original and four (4) copies of the proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for Main Parking Lot Expansion and Storm Water Drainage Rehabilitation at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-004-15"**. Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ *CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director*

Date: August 8, 2018

KSKK bids Saipan *sayonara* in farewell dinner



A host family sits alongside students of the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai school at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café Tuesday evening during the group's farewell dinner.

FAHIM UDDIN



A host family poses for a photo with students of the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai school at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café Tuesday evening during the group's farewell dinner.

FAHIM UDDIN

Students, teachers, and chaperones of the Japanese school Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai joined their host families last Tuesday evening at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan for a farewell dinner at the resort's World Café.

The 13 students were joined at the farewell dinner by the Saipan Mayor's Office committee that made the arrangements for their visit.

Tour coordinator Yasuyo Ichihara said she appreciates arranging the trip to Saipan. "The culture and food are different from Japan and I feel very welcome here," she said.

Ichihara recalled first arriving on Saipan nine years ago; she said she and the students struggled to adjust to the life-

style of the island. But, with every visit, the group has come to learn to appreciate the historical ties between Japan and the CNMI.

During Tuesday night's dinner, the students gave Japanese performances to share their culture. Afterwards, musician Gus Kaipat sang a Chamorro song for the visitors.

Student cultural exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto expressed the group's appreciation to the host families.

"Words can't express on how thankful I am for the hospitality and condition they've been providing to the students," said Kishimoto.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said: "This is a small group that comes here every



Students and teachers of the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai school give a group performance at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café Tuesday evening during the group's farewell dinner.

FAHIM UDDIN

year and we take care of them for a week. Tomorrow, they will be going to Managaha [Island] or do some shopping" before leaving. The group arrived on Aug. 3 and is leaving today. (Fahim Uddin)



One of the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai school students performs at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café Tuesday evening during the group's farewell dinner.

FAHIM UDDIN



Gus Kaipat sings for the Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai school students at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's World Café Tuesday evening during the group's farewell dinner.

FAHIM UDDIN

Following Classes start August 15:

- > **CORE/Electrical**
- > **CORE/Carpentry**
- > **CORE/HVAC**
- > **Automotive Technology - Brakes**
- > **Welding - Level 1**
- > **Welding - Level 2**
- > **Adult Vocational Technical High School**

Call Mae 235-6684 to register today.



Northern Marianas Trades Institute does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 157

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The push for legal pot, state by state

By OWEN POINDEXTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It is well-established but worth repeating that the War on Drugs is a disaster for everyone it touches. The mass incarceration, gang activity, persecution of people of color, lost tax revenue, and blocked research, all perpetrated by the war, make it one of the nation's greatest self-inflicted wounds.

Now we are seeing a wave of marijuana legalization, beginning in the West and continuing in the East. After Colorado and Washington led the way, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont followed suit. Now nine states and the District of Columbia have legalized adult recreational marijuana use.

The benefits brought on by legalization—studies have shown it to reduce crime, curb opioid abuse, decrease teen marijuana use and raise property values—could help catalyze similar initiatives in other states. Michigan is voting on legalization this November, which could pave the way for Pennsylvania, Illinois and Minnesota.

Attention is now on New York and New Jersey, which together represent 29 million people. These two states could be a tipping point for legalization, but that will only occur with substantial and sustained support from the people who live there.

New Jersey has been progressing toward legalization since the election of Democrat Phil Murphy to the governor's mansion. Lawmakers are hoping to pass a legalization bill this summer, but it's not clear whether they have the necessary votes. And while some New Jersey cities welcome the arrival of cannabis, about 17 have banned or restricted it within their borders.

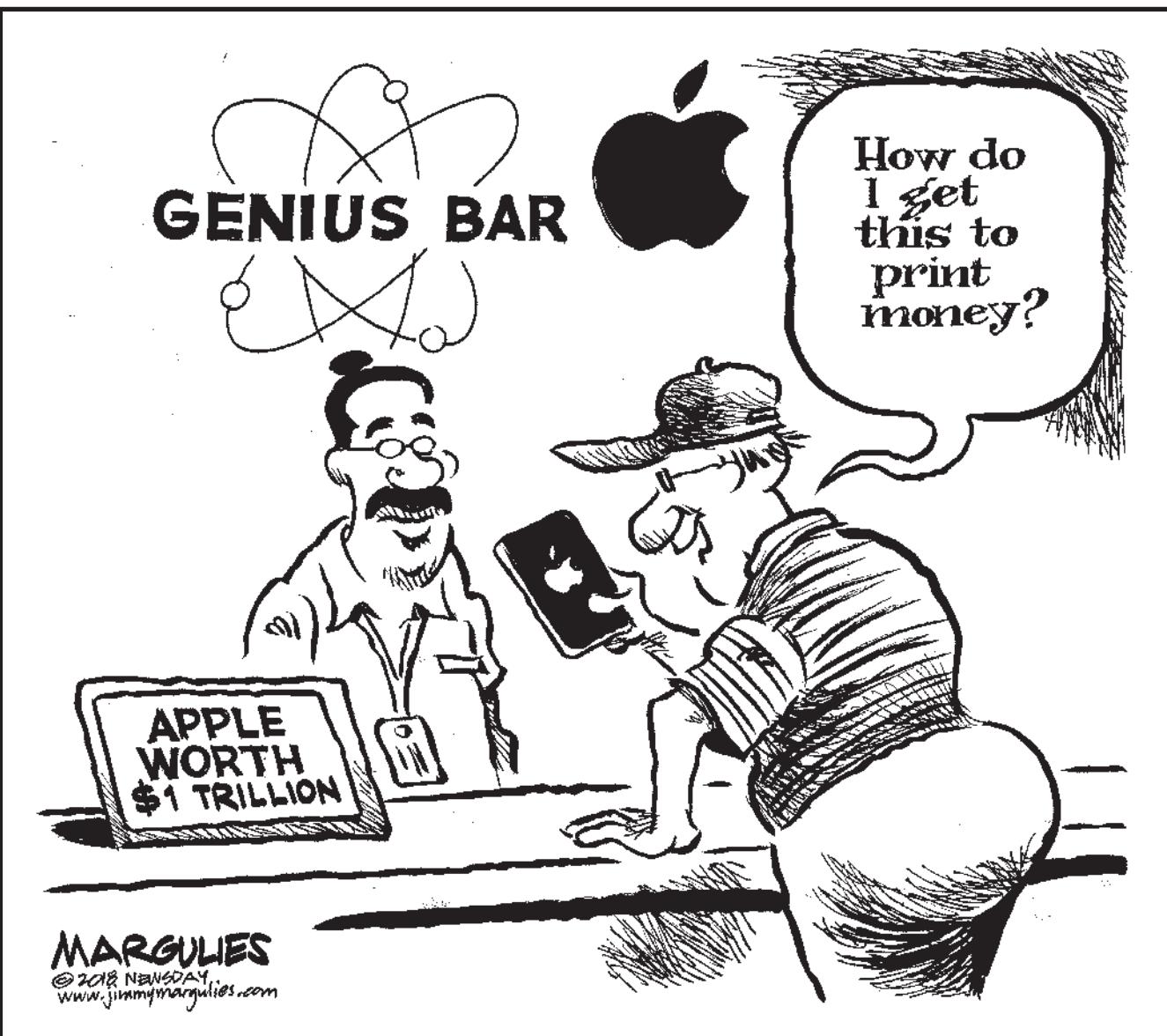
In New York, a recent State Department of Health report calling for legalization has moved the needle, and provided some cover for Gov. Andrew Cuomo to embrace the issue as he tries to head off a primary challenge from progressive Cynthia Nixon. The two states are also pressuring each other as they compete to see which will be the first to score the windfall of cannabis enthusiasts arriving on the PATH train or taking the Holland Tunnel.

Citizens in these states who want the laws to change must make their feelings known. Legislators need to feel some heat from their constituents, because many would be content to leave this issue in limbo.

Even in states where legalization has occurred, differences in how programs are run can have a big impact. For instance, provisions that bar felons from establishing cannabis business licenses can perpetuate the inequalities of the War on Drugs. These can be mitigated with equity provisions, like the one in Massachusetts that provides training and technical assistance and waives fees for cannabis business license applicants from communities disproportionately harmed by the War on Drugs.

Nationwide legalization of marijuana is now likely inevitable.

Owen Poindexter of Berkeley, California, is a freelance writer focused on politics and baseball. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



We're all living in Trump's kayfabe world

President Trump's demonization of the media as the "enemy of the people" is mostly kayfabe.

A professional wrestling term, "kayfabe" means presenting staged events as if they're real. Pro wrestling is theater, not sport. But it thrives on the illusion that it is the latter, not the former.

This twilight realm is Trump's bailiwick. His business empire was built on the maxim "fake it till you make it," feeding bogus stories to copy-hungry tabloids. His gift partly stems from believing his own bull. When asked under oath how he measures his net worth, he explained that it depends on his personal feelings.

Trump also believes in the kayfables of others. He reportedly once called the headquarters of the WWE to find out if CEO Vince McMahon was OK after seeing McMahon's limo explode in an episode of "Monday Night RAW."

Trump is a bit like one of the shackled mortals in Plato's cave: He thinks the shadows on the wall, or his TV, are the real thing. Before it became politically inconvenient, Trump used to brag that he knew Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I got to know him very well because we were both on '60 Minutes,' we were stablemates," Trump said. He seemed to think they knew each other "very well" solely because they appeared on the same broadcast. Here's the thing: They had never actually met.

This twofold tendency—to believe the story and to believe that the story is more important than reality—goes a long way toward explaining why Trump believes in conspiracy theories, thinks lavish summits are their own reward, and makes bold announcements via Twitter that would be great if they were actually true.

"There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea," the president tweeted after his summit with Kim Jong Un. Ridiculous, but beside the point; if you want the legend to become fact, tweet the legend.

Our dilemma: how to deal with our kayfabeled world. Some boosters just go along with the act. They say he's the "world's greatest negotiator" because that's the story of Trump's brand—and id.

"Fake news" isn't necessarily news that's untrue, but news that inconveniently breaks the fourth wall of the kayfabe. When

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg's new book, *Suicide of the West*, is now available wherever books are sold. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by e-mail at [goldbergcolumn@gmail.com](mailto:goldsbergcolumn@gmail.com), or via Twitter @JonahNRO.



the Sun reported Trump's criticisms of British Prime Minister Theresa May, he said it was fake, even though he was on tape saying it. At a rally last month, Trump cut to the chase: "What you're seeing and what you're reading is not what's happening."

For many in the administration, the challenge is to humor the kayfabe while doing your job. In June, following the G7 summit in Canada, Trump tweeted that he had instructed his staff to reject the group's joint statement. His staff ignored him. "It's like there's a reality TV president, in his own bubble, thinking he controls stuff. It's like 'The Truman Show,'" one source told Buzzfeed. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has suggested multiple times that administration policy cannot be gleaned from the tweets and riffs provided by the script-writing homunculus in Trump's brain.

Meanwhile, Trump's biggest detractors retreat to a kayfabe all their own, in which they constitute the heroic opposition to an authoritarian monster—"literally Hitler!" If Trump were Hitler, they'd be in jail.

Journalists are caught between these narratives and often succumb to their audiences' delusions. Many of my colleagues at Fox tell viewers what they want to hear: Trump can do no wrong. Many at MSNBC and CNN are invested in either the "resistance" story or their victimhood. (CNN's Jim Acosta has made a name for himself as a preening handwringing over Trump's war on the press.)

In each case they're doing Trump a favor. Every wrestling storyline needs a villain and a hero, and every promoter/producer sees good ratings as their own reward. That's why the news media gave candidate Trump \$2 billion in free media.

It's an ugly spectacle with an obvious solution: See the kayfabe for what it is; don't fall for the performance.

‘Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him’

Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him.” So says Carolyn Bryant Donham in historian Timothy B. Tyson’s 2017 book, “The Blood of Emmett Till.” You keep hoping for more, hoping to hear her wrestle with her crime, explain how she could have done what she did _ and how she lives with herself now.

But in the end, the admission is all she gives, the only glimpse you get into how she views her role in one of history’s signature atrocities, the brutal lynching of a 14-year-old Chicago boy who supposedly got fresh with her one fateful day in her family store in the nothing town of Money, Mississippi, and the acquittal of his killers, Donham’s husband and his half-brother. “Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him,” she says now, as if that hasn’t been glaringly obvious for 63 years, ever since Till’s bloated, mutilated corpse was fished from the Talahtachie River.

Still, her words are historic. This is apparently Donham’s first public statement on the notorious case since right after it happened. In the book, she also recants the most explosive part of her 1955 accusation _ that Till cursed at her and grabbed her, his brown hands transgressing her white purity. Last month, apparently because of this revelation, the Justice Department opened a new investigation.

Me, I don’t care one way or the other if Donham goes to jail.

But I’d love to see her be required for the record to finally grapple with what she did. Who knows? It might inspire America to do the same.

That there is a need for this is evidenced by the fact that someone keeps shooting up a sign on the riverbank marking the spot where Till’s body was found. As noted in this space at the time, a student filmmaker found it pocked with dozens of bullet holes back in 2016. The marker was replaced in June. This week comes news that someone has already put new holes in it.

Understand: You’ve got to go through some trouble to shoot up this sign. According to The Washington Post, it lies in an isolated spot two miles down a gravel road. Obviously, someone has a grudge against it. Apparently, the truth it tells is still red and raw even now, 23,000 days after the fact.

Granted, that truth is awful. Meaning that America regularly condones _ and, yes, condones _ the extralegal killing of black children. Many of us are unwilling to face truths like that, as in a study by the Public Religion Research Institute, quantifying that most Republicans do not believe significant racial discrimination exists. Which is sad.

This will be a better nation the day we stop lying to ourselves about who we were and what we are, the day we own up to the blood shed, bones splintered, sins committed and calumnies told to make America “great,” the day we finally find the guts to admit what happened to Emmett, and to Tray-

By LEONARD PITTS JR.

Miami Herald



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von and Tamir _ and why.

I don’t expect “justice” if Donham ends up in court. She has lived into her 80s. Emmett Till is a teenager forever. So there can be no justice.

But truth would be nice.

Problem is, for some people, it would be frightening, too. Why else, after 23,000 days, does anyone feel compelled to go two miles down a hard road to shoot up a sign that speaks only historical fact? In the process, they turn a reminder of what America was into a monument to what America too often is, a nation unable or unwilling to own up to itself.

The octogenarian who lied Emmett Till to death is an icon of that failure. “Nothing that boy did,” she says, “could ever justify what happened to him.” You keep hoping for more.

But even that took her a lifetime to say.

The Matrix at 20

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the sci-fi movie classic *The Matrix*, which depicts powerful machines attempting to subdue the human race.

Sometimes art imitates life, and sometimes it’s the other way around. On occasion, art can be prophetic. *The Matrix* is such a film. It warns of a future in which the power and worth of the individual is subsumed into one giant interconnected world run by a tiny elite, who rob individuals of their liberty and ability to think freely.

In his new book, *World without Mind: The Existential Threat of Big Tech* (Penguin Press), Franklin Foer, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and former editor of *The New Republic*, expands on the film’s warnings. Foer asserts that technology is replacing thought and relationships. He specifically warns of the goals of Google, Facebook, Amazon and other corporate tech giants, charging them with being “monopolists who want access to every facet of our identities and influence over every corner of our decision-making.”

Sometimes employing language that recalls ancient biblical prophecies and the end times foreseen in Revelation, Foer warns these companies eventually want to insert devices in our bodies to allow others to think for us. “Google Glass and the Apple Watch,” he says, “prefigure the day when these companies implant their artificial intelligence within our bodies.”

How will this be “sold” to the public? Foer writes it will be sold just like any other product or service: “...they justify monopoly with their well-articulated belief that competition undermines our pursuit of the common good and ambitions.”

There’s more, much more. “The tech companies are destroying something precious, which is the possibility of contemplation. They have created a world in which we are constantly watched and always distracted. Through their accumulation of data they have constructed a portrait of our minds, which they use to invisibly guide mass behavior (and increasingly individual behavior), to further their financial interests.” This, he believes, is a threat to thought and democracy.

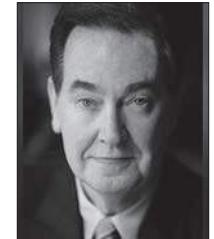
Foer says these tech giants have a vision that supersedes their financial goals. That vision, he says, was hatched in the 1960s (though conceived by the French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes in the 17th century) and includes a world without borders. It is their view that only they can save the world by concentrating all power in a select few. They see themselves as saviors of the world. In technology they—and we—must trust.

Students of Scripture will immediately think of the “anti-Christ,” who rises to power with the ability to perform miracles and who wins the allegiance of the Earth’s inhabitants; except he might not be a person at all. “He” might be a machine.

In his sobering prologue, Foer writes: “The time has arrived to

By CAL THOMAS

Tribune Content Agency



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consider the consequences of these monopolies, to reassert our own role in determining the human path. Once we cross certain thresholds—once we transform the values of institutions, once we abandon privacy—there’s no turning back, no restoring our lost individuality.”

We have been warned before and are now being warned again in Foer’s excellent book. The tech giants openly state their goals. How many are listening?

In the final scene of “The Matrix,” Neo, the lead character and redeemer figure, says: “I don’t know the future. I didn’t come here to tell you how this is going to end. I came here to tell you how it’s going to begin. ... I’m going to show them ... a world without rules and controls, without borders or boundaries. A world where anything is possible. Where we go from there is a choice I leave to you.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In response

In response to recent assertions made by gubernatorial candidate Juan N. Babauta, the Committee-to-Elect Ralph DLG. Torres and Arnold I. Palacios issued the following statement:

“The statements made by the other camp are in line with Juan Babauta’s well-established strategy to perpetuate falsehoods, mislead voters, and cover up years of his mismanagement of government resources and trust.

Voters and those who care deeply of our electoral process are done a disservice by the negative campaigning and attempts to rewrite history in the hopes the past will be forgotten.

For the future of the CNMI, the past cannot be forgotten.

Any claims of Juan Babauta’s interest in protecting our islands’ health care system if elected neglects the fact that in multiple occasion he has both been given the opportunity and failed to do so, leaving the lives of our people in jeopardy.

In his controversial 16-month tenure as CEO of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., three appointed directors of medical affairs, CHCC’s chief financial officer, and critical medical staff stepped down in response to his incompetence.

■ See “30 nurses 4 doctors quit at CHC” by Clarrisa David, *Saipan Tribune* May 1, 2012 (<https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/30-nurses-4-doctors-quit-at-chc/>)

■ See “Bye, bye Babauta; Muna named interim CEO” by Tammy Doty April 21, 2013 ([http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/55342-bye-babauta-muna-named-interim-ceo](http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/55342-bye-bye-babauta-muna-named-interim-ceo))

[com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/55342-bye-bye-babauta-muna-named-interim-ceo](http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/55342-bye-bye-babauta-muna-named-interim-ceo))

Babauta pushed forward with a contentious sole-sourced and illegal billing and coding contract with a hastily formed state-side company and drove the hospital into near bankruptcy where they could not afford basic supplies for patients in dire need. See “Idaho-based ICS officially out of CHC” *Saipan Tribune* June 04, 2012 (<https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/bfa602d5-1dfb-11e4-aedf-250bc8c9958e/>)

Under his term as CEO, CHCC accrued millions in unpaid utility bills, electricity was disconnected, and key vendors were left unpaid. See “CHC braces for power cuts” by Tammy Doty May 20, 2012 (<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/46581-chc-braces-for-power-cuts>)

Babauta led to the near collapse of the islands’ sole hospital and put at severe risk the hospital’s certification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). In response to CMS’ findings, Babauta himself said ““Unfortunately we dropped the ball.” See “Feds declare ‘immediate jeopardy’ status for CHC amid infighting” by Tammy Doty Sept. 18, 2012 (<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/49790-breaking-news-feds-place-chc-under-immediate-jeopardy-status-.php>)

Thankfully, the CHCC board fired Babauta. In their evaluation

report, the board stated “After completing the entire evaluation process, the Committee finds that CEO Juan N. Babauta failed to provide adequate leadership and strategic direction to CHC, leaving its facilities, corporate officers, and general staff in disarray.” See “CHC board fires CEO Babauta” by Tammy Doty March 21, 2013 (<http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/54542-breaking-news-chc-board-fires-ceo-juan-n-babauta>)

This was only five years ago, and the current administration is still dealing with the proven incompetence of Babauta’s tenure at the helm.

These are the reported facts.

Yet under the leadership of Ralph DLG. Torres, CHCC has received resources than ever to pay down its utility billings, create opportunities for the expansion of services, and provide for the needed equipment and workforce necessary for CHCC to continue its important goal of saving lives.

It is a fact that lives were at risk during Babauta’s last opportunity to improve our islands’ healthcare system, and many more will be affected if we let history be forgotten.

If the Babauta-Sablan camp chooses to continue its politics of divisiveness, negativity and lies, the facts will always prevail.”

Committee-to-Elect Ralph DLG. Torres and Arnold I. Palacios

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers, light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			

▲ 90° ▼ 76°

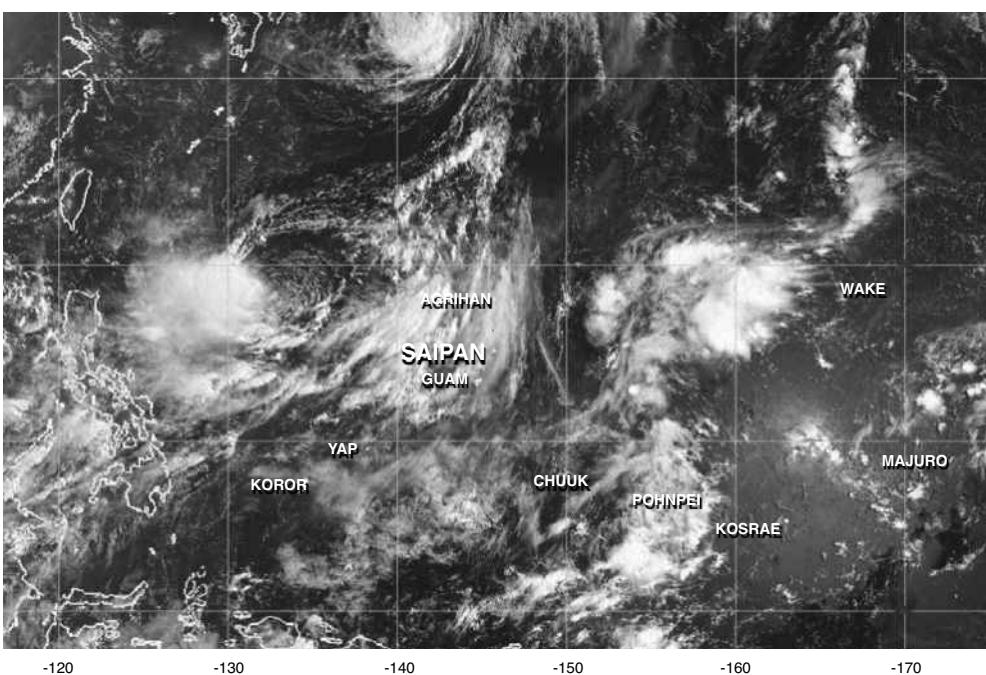
▲ 90° ▼ 77°

▲ 89° ▼ 78°

▲ 89° ▼ 77°

▲ 89° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Tropical Depression 18W is well to the northeast of the Marianas and a disturbance near Chuuk will gradually approach. However this system is very weak and the model guidance does very little with it. In the interim, the islands are in a ridge between the two systems and the weather should be fairly quiet with light wind. There is enough mid-level drying that shower chances should be no more than isolated, and we could end up relatively dry. By next week another disturbance may approach and increase shower chances, but we have time to see how that plays out. For now, no changes were made to the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE			▼ ▲ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 78°	
London	Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	93° / 74°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	
Melbourne	Windy	64° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	89° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°	
Paris	Thunderstorms	70° / 55°	
Busan	Rain	86° / 79°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 73°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	90° / 71°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°	
Seoul	Showers	91° / 77°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	93° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS	
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:	
■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone	
■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone	
■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
04:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	
11:56 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.44	
7:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:20 AM	4:39 PM	-
Friday	4:23 AM	5:40 PM	-
Saturday	5:28 AM	6:38 PM	-
Sunday	6:33 AM	7:32 PM	-
Monday	7:35 AM	8:21 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117 8:45am 9:30am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7

7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily

0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1

0Z626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

UJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7

7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily

7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396 7:30am 12:00pm 1

JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm 4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z626/701 2:10am 10:55am 1 via ICN

0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM

UA6394/PR111 4:15am 8:10am 7 via GUM

UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM

UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM

UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

UA6398/193 6:05pm 11:50pm 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077 1:50am 5:15am 1, 4

0Z626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN

0Z626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

UO43 5:45am 8:40am 1, 3, 5, 7

UA6398/159 6:05pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN

OZ722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

HX076 5:15pm 12:15am+1 3, 7

UO42 6:50pm 1:45am+1 7

UO42 9:30pm 4:25am+1 2, 4, 6

UA116/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT # DEPARTURE ARRIVAL FREQUENCY

1301 7:30AM 8:00AM Daily

1302 11:30AM 12:00PM Daily

1303 4:00PM 4:30PM Daily

<h

Business

Trump going ahead with taxes on \$16B in Chinese imports

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration announced Tuesday that it will go ahead with imposing 25

percent tariffs on an additional \$16 billion in Chinese imports.

Customs officials will begin collecting the border tax Aug. 23, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said. The list is heavy

on industrial products such as steam turbines and iron girders.

Tuesday's announcement was not a surprise. In April, the administration had announced plans to slap tariffs on 1,333

Chinese product lines worth \$50 billion a year. After receiving public feedback, it cut 515 products from the list in June and added 284. On July 6, the U.S. began taxing the 818 goods, worth \$34 billion,

remaining from the April list.

In the meantime, it sought public comment on the new items. On Tuesday, the administration said it had decided to go ahead with tariffs on 279 of the 284 items added in June; they're worth about \$16 billion a year.

China has been retaliating in kind.

And the conflict is likely to escalate: The administration is preparing tariffs of up to 25 percent on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese products. And President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs

on virtually everything China sells to the United States. Chinese imports of goods and services into the United States last year amounted to nearly \$524 billion.

The world's two biggest economies are locked in a trade dispute over Washington's charges that China uses predatory tactics in a drive to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. The alleged tactics include cyber-theft and a requirement that American companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

China's July exports accelerate despite hike in US tariffs

BEIJING (AP)—China's exports accelerated in July, showing little impact from a U.S. tariff hike, while sales to the United States rose 13.3 percent over a year earlier.

Customs data released

Wednesday showed exports rose 12.2 percent to \$215.5 billion, up from June's 11.3 percent growth. That was despite Washington's imposition of 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods on July 6 in a

dispute over technology.

Imports surged 27.3 percent to \$187.5 billion, outpacing the previous month's 14.1 percent.

Growth in exports to the United States was off slightly

from June's 13.6 percent. That was more than offset by stronger exports to the rest of the world, possibly helped by a weaker Chinese currency.

Beijing has warned its exporters face "rising instabilities."

China orders recall from overseas as vaccine scandal churns

BEIJING (AP)—China's National Health Commission says investigators have begun recalling defective vaccines produced by a Chinese drugmaker from domestic and overseas markets.

Investigators say they found Changchun Changsheng Life Sciences Ltd. had blended expired fluids in its vaccines and falsified records from as early as April 2014.

The names of the overseas countries involved were not given, but the recall indicated the scandal gripping China

may have spread to foreign markets, dealing a potentially heavy blow to the reputation of China's massive pharmaceutical industry.

China's National Health Commission announced the recall in a statement Tuesday but did not immediately respond to a fax Wednesday seeking comment.

Regulators ordered a production halt last month, but public anger soared after leaked documents showed regulators had found inconsistencies in 2017 but failed to act.

Major tech companies remove Alex Jones for hate, bullying

NEW YORK (AP)—Major tech companies have begun to ban right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones from their services, reflecting a more aggressive enforcement of policies against hate speech following protests on social media.

Facebook has taken down four pages belonging to Jones, including two featuring his "Infowars" show, for violating its hate speech and bullying policies. Over the past several days, Apple, YouTube and Spotify have also removed material published by Jones. Twitter, which hasn't banned Jones, has also faced similar calls.

Facebook has also suspended Jones' account for 30 days because he repeatedly violated the company's community standards against hate speech that "attacks or dehumanizes others," it said in a statement Monday. Facebook did not immediately respond Monday asking what would happen after the 30 days are up, and why it hadn't taken action earlier. The 30-day suspension of Jones himself appears to have gone into effect in late July.

Twitter would not comment on Jones.

"We've been banned completely on Facebook, Apple, &

Spotify," Jones wrote on Twitter. "What conservative news outlet will be next?"

Jones has amassed a large following on the right while promulgating conspiracy theories that claim terror attacks such as 9/11 were actually carried out by the government. Among his claims is that the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting, which left 20 children and six adults dead, was a hoax.

It's unclear why the companies are cracking down on Jones now, after allowing him to publish for years. Facebook has been under fire recently for not banning Jones, but as recently as July 12 it tweeted that it sees pages "on both the left and right pumping out what they consider opinion or analysis—but others call fake news."

"We believe banning these Pages would be contrary to the basic principles of free speech," Facebook posted in response to a question from CNN reporter Oliver Darcy, who had been pressing the company on why it continued to allow "Infowars" on its platform.

On Monday, the company said that it "unpublished" the four pages after receiving reports that they contained content "glorifying violence" and used "dehumanizing language" to describe Muslims, immigrants and transgender people.

"While much of the discussion around Infowars has been related to false news ... none of the violations that spurred today's removals were related to this," Facebook said on Monday.

Facebook is the latest tech

company to take action against Jones following social-media backlash. BuzzFeed News reported Sunday that Apple has removed five of Infowars' six podcasts from its iTunes and Podcast apps for violating hate speech guidelines.

In response to a query from the Associated Press, Apple said only that it "does not tolerate hate speech" and referenced its guidelines for creators and developers, but did not name Jones or comment further. As of Monday, iTunes searches for "Infowars" or "Alex Jones" turned up no podcasts created by Jones. Entering the web addresses for specific shows brought up a notice that the content is not available.

Last week, music streaming service Spotify removed some episodes of "The Alex Jones Show" podcast for breaching its hate content policy.

And as of Monday, Alex Jones's channel was not available on YouTube, with a notice that the account "has been terminated for violating YouTube's Community Guidelines." The Infowars YouTube channel was also labeled as "terminated."

Jones says his shows, which are broadcast on radio, and online platforms, reach at least 70 million people a week. It's unclear how the latest bans have affected his reach.

YouTube said in a statement that when users violate its policies against hate speech and harassment, "we terminate their accounts." But the company did not give specifics on Jones or Infowars.

TRADE WAR

In this Monday, July 23, 2018 photo, lobster fisherman Ernie Piton walks among his lobster traps in Key Largo, in the Florida Keys. Lobster fishermen in the Florida Keys fear a trade war with China could undermine storm recovery in the island chain. Lobsters are among the seafood and other U.S. goods hit by Chinese tariffs in early July, after the Trump administration put tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
25,628.91
+126.73
+0.50% 

S&P
2,858.45
+8.05
+0.28% 

NASDAQ
1,688.30
+3.99
+0.24% 

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3462
British Pound	0.7720
Canadian Dollar	1.3051
Chinese Yuan	6.7227
Euro	0.8602

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8493	Russian Ruble	63.4195
Indian Rupee	68.7974	Singapore Dollar	1.3633
Japanese Yen	111.2670	South Korean Won	1096.52
Malaysian Ringgit	4.0308	Swiss Franc	0.9940
New Zealand Dollar	1.4807	Taiwan Dollar	30.0841
Philippine Peso	51.8967	Thailand Baht	33.1465

Nation

BIGGEST BLAZE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY CHALLENGES FIREFIGHTERS

By PAUL ELIAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters struggled against rugged terrain, high winds and an August heat wave Tuesday to slow the spread of the biggest wildfire ever recorded in California, an inferno that exploded to be nearly the size of Los Angeles in just 11 days.

The 450-square-mile (1,165-square-kilometer) blaze, centered near the community of Upper Lake, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco, spread fast because of what officials said was a perfect combination of weather, topography and abundant vegetation turned into highly flammable fuel by years of drought.

Firefighting efforts were also initially hampered by stretched resources, said the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire.

When the fire started July 27, thousands of firefighters were hundreds of miles north battling a massive blaze that spread into the city of Redding, destroying more than 1,000 homes, in addition to a dozen other major blazes.

A few days after the Upper Lake fire started, Cal Fire Battalion Chief John Messina told a community meeting that with so many fires already raging in California, "resources are already committed" so officials were forced to prioritize public safety and private property.

"After those two things are addressed then we'll go after the pieces of fire that are in remote areas," Messina said. "Typically, we'd go at all at



Evacuees from Lucerne, from left, Ken Bennett with Ember Reynolds, 8, and Lisa Reynolds watch the sunset as smoke from the Ranch Fire rises into the sky at Austin Park Beach in California's Clearlake with Mount Konocti in the background. AP

once. There is just not the resources for that."

The flames were raging in mostly remote areas, and no deaths or serious injuries were reported. But at least 75 homes have been lost, and thousands of people have been forced to flee. The blaze, dubbed the Mendocino Complex, was reported 20 percent contained on Tuesday.

Its rapid growth at the same time firefighters were battling more than a dozen other major blazes around the state fanned fears that 2018 could become the worst wildfire season in

California history.

"For whatever reason, fires are burning much more intensely, much more quickly than they were before," said Mark A. Hartwig, president of the California Fire Chiefs Association.

About 3,900 firefighters, including a crew of 40 volunteers from New Zealand, were battling the blaze, contending with temperatures in the high 90s and winds gusting to 25 mph (40 kph).

The heavily forested area of myriad canyons where the fire is spreading has few

roads or natural barriers that can serve as firebreaks or offer safe havens for firefighters to battle the flames head on, Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Cox said.

So firefighters instead fell back to natural barriers such as streams or used bulldozers to cut fire lines, but the flames were moving so fast in spots that they blew past, forcing firefighters to retreat, Cox said.

"There's no way you're going to stop that fire," said Kyle Coleman, 28, who returned to his childhood home last week

to help his father try—in vain, it turned out—to protect it. "A big wall of flames came over the mountain ... I pretty much got my dad out of there."

In all, 14,000 firefighters were battling blazes across California, which is seeing earlier, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change, and the building of homes deeper into the forests.

"Cal Fire is really an urban firefighter service in the woods," said Arizona State University professor

Stephen Pyne, a wildfire management expert.

The Mendocino Complex is actually two blazes burning so close together that authorities are attacking them as one, a common practice at Cal Fire. The fires started within an hour of each other about 15 miles (25 kilometers) apart. As of Tuesday, they were separated by just a few miles. Officials have not determined the cause of either one.

In becoming the biggest fire in California history, the Mendocino Complex fire broke a record set just eight months ago. A blaze in Southern California in December killed two people, burned 440 square miles (1,140 square kilometers) and destroyed more than 1,000 buildings.

Crews also gained ground this week against another Northern California wildfire near the city of Redding that was blamed for at least six deaths.

Meanwhile, a blaze burning near Yosemite National Park has been raging for nearly a month but is still just one-third as large as the biggest fire, though dense smoke has closed much of the park to visitors for the past two weeks.

California's firefighting costs have more than tripled from \$242 million in the 2013 fiscal year to \$773 million in the 2018 fiscal year that ended June 30, according to Cal Fire.

"We're in uncharted territory," Gov. Jerry Brown warned last week. "Since civilization emerged 10,000 years ago, we haven't had this kind of heat condition, and it's going to continue getting worse. That's the way it is."

ACROSS THE NATION

Manafort lawyer: 'So many lies' Gates can't keep up

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—In blistering and aggressive questioning aimed at undermining the credibility of the government's star witness, a defense lawyer accused the protege of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort of being immersed in "so many lies" he can't remember them all and demanded to know how a jury could possibly trust him. Defense lawyer Kevin Downing began his cross-examination of longtime Manafort deputy Rick Gates by confronting him on his own lies to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators, an extramarital affair and hundreds of thousands of dollars he admitted to embezzling from his for-

mer boss. Downing also ventured into territory the two sides in Manafort's fraud trial have mostly avoided: discussion of Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

Boy's remains found at New Mexico desert compound

AMALIA, N.M. (AP)—The investigation into a group of starving children found in a desert compound in New Mexico took another dark turn Tuesday, when authorities said they found the remains of a young boy at the squalid property. It's not yet certain the remains are of Abdul-ghani Wahhaj, who would have turned 4 on Monday. But Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe indicated the body appeared to be that of a boy similar in age to Abdul-ghani, who suf-

fers from seizures and was reported missing in December after his father said he was taking him to a park in Jonesboro, Georgia, south of Atlanta. The father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, had told his wife he wanted to perform an exorcism on the child, authorities said.

Police: Gunman ambushes 2 officers sitting in vehicle

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—A gunman opened fire on two New Jersey police officers while they were sitting in their vehicle at a red light Tuesday night, wounding them in what authorities are calling an ambush attack. At least one suspect opened fire on the plainclothes detectives in Camden, which is located just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, said Camden

County Police Chief J. Scott Thomson. "The information we have thus far is that they were essentially ambushed," Thomson told reporters at a late night news conference. "A male walked up and began opening fire. We have anywhere between 10 and 25 rounds that were fired at the officers." One of the detectives was able to return fire, Thomson said, but it was not immediately clear if anyone else was shot. Thomson said his department was in communication with hospitals in the region.

Supreme Court nominee takes hard line on federal regulations

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh worries about fed-

Judge who overturned other Obama program hears DACA case

HOUSTON (AP)—Opponents of a President Barack Obama-era program shielding young immigrants from deportation will go before a federal judge who they hope will rule that the program cannot continue. Three federal judges have ruled against President Donald Trump's administration's efforts to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. But a new lawsuit was filed in Texas before Judge Andrew Hanen, the same judge who ended another Obama effort to expand protections for immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Hanen will hear arguments on the case Wednesday. If he rules DACA is invalid, it would conflict with the other rulings in favor of the program.

Asia

Indonesia struggles to recover quake's dead, help the living

By TODD PITMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TANJUNG, Indonesia (AP)—The rescue team had done everything it could to locate the body of the man, who had been killed instantly when a massive earthquake collapsed his home Sunday night on the Indonesian island of Lombok.

They used hacksaws to cut a square into concrete wall. They used crowbars and dogs and a power drill. But by Tuesday afternoon, with the unmistakable stench of rotting flesh in the air, they were sweating and at their wits' end. The body of 60-year-old Abdul Malik, one of at least 105 people killed in the 7.0-magnitude quake, would have to stay under the rubble for a third day.

"It's taking far too long," said 50-year-old Masini, the victim's brother-in-law who watched more than a dozen helmeted emergency workers in orange jumpsuits drill into a thick layer of concrete.

The tragic scene underscored the challenges Indonesia faces after this natural disaster. The quake shattered homes and lives on this island, displacing more than 84,000 people, according to disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

At least 4,600 foreign and Indonesian tourists also have been evacuated from three smaller islands off Lombok's coast so far, Nugroho said. The islets are renowned for their crystal clear waters that draw snorkelers and divers from all over the world.

But with not enough boats to evacuate tourists quickly and too few planes to fly them out of Lombok, many visitors were forced to wait for hours



Rescuers carry the body of an earthquake victim recovered from the collapsed Jabal Nur mosque in North Lombok, Indonesia, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. AP

or camp on beaches and the floor of the international airport in Mataram.

On the winding roads running north from the airport, which lead to destroyed villages shadowed by tall palm trees, the disaster's impact was evident. Villagers fearing aftershocks could be seen camped by the thousands under makeshift blue tarpaulins held together with bamboo and sticks. Some held up simple cardboard signs begging for aid as ambulances and other vehicles raced by.

"We need food and water," said one. "Please donate," said another. The international charity Oxfam said drinking water

was scarce because of a recent spell of extremely dry weather in Lombok. Food, medical supplies, tarps and clothes are also urgently needed, it said.

By late Tuesday, the government appeared to be focused on finding bodies, and wherever possible, survivors.

Masini said his brother-in-law, Abdul Malik, who owned a small grocery store next to his home in Tanjung, was sitting in his living room with family when the catastrophe struck. Although his family managed to make it out, Abdul Malik was crushed by a thick concrete wall.

A few kilometers (miles)

up the road, rescuers earlier Tuesday pulled a single body from a pancaked pile of broken concrete and twisted rebar that once held together the

multistory Jabal Nur Mosque,

whose green dome had shattered and collapsed.

A 66-year-old village elder, Supardi, said a 6.4-magnitude quake that hit Lombok a week earlier had caused countless cracks in the mosque's walls.

Those were going to be repaired, he said, but people were just getting over the first quake and more than half the village's 1,500 people were sleeping outside.

Large earthquakes are often followed by less-powerful aftershocks. But "nobody expected a stronger quake would occur in such a short amount

Duterte berates, threatens to kill corrupt police on live TV

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday threatened to kill corrupt police, including those accused of involvement in illegal drugs and other crimes, in an expletives-laden encounter on live TV.

More than 100 policemen, many of them facing administrative and criminal complaints including rape, kidnapping and robbery, were escorted to the presidential palace to meet Duterte, police officials said.

The national police, which Duterte once called "corrupt to the core," have been undergoing an internal cleansing since they were removed twice from the president's crackdown on illegal drugs last year due to reports of abuses. Duterte later allowed them to rejoin drug

raids, partly because the small lead anti-narcotics agency lacks personnel and firepower to quell the drug menace.

"If you'll stay like this, son of a bitch, I will really kill you," Duterte told the policemen in the dressing-down broadcast by local TV networks.

The cases of some of the policemen will be reviewed, but Duterte warned, "I have a special unit which will watch you for life and if you commit even a small mistake, I'll ask that you be killed."

Addressing the policemen's families, Duterte said, "If these sons of bitches die, don't come to us yelling 'human rights, due process' because I warned you already."

Such public threats, along with the more than 4,500 mostly poor drug suspects

who have been killed in gunbattles with police under Duterte's anti-drug crackdown, have triggered alarm by Western governments and human rights watchdogs since he rose to power in mid-2016.

Duterte has vowed to press his campaign until the last day of his six-year term, often declaring that he is ready to go to jail, although he denies sanctioning extrajudicial killings. Police say nearly 150,000 drug suspects have been arrested and dozens of law enforcers have been killed in drug raids, proving the danger of battling illegal drugs, which remain a major problem.

The Bureau of Customs and anti-drugs authorities announced Tuesday night the discovery of about half a ton (1,100 pounds) of metham-

phetamine, locally called shabu, concealed in two steel cylinders in two abandoned container vans at Manila's international container port in one of the largest drug seizures under Duterte.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Aaron Aquino said the vans came from Malaysia, which a drug syndicate may be using as a transhipment point, but were never claimed at the Manila port because of stricter screenings.

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapena warned that customs personnel linked to drug traffickers would eventually be arrested. "The fact that this did not get through this time is an indication that many no longer want to cooperate with the drug syndicates," he told reporters.

Japan medical school confirms altering scores to limit women

TOKYO (AP)—A Tokyo medical school apologized Tuesday after an internal investigation confirmed that it altered entrance exam scores for years to limit the number of female students and ensure more men became doctors.

Tokyo Medical University manipulated all entrance exam results starting in 2006 or even earlier, according to findings released by lawyers involved in the investigation, confirming recent reports in Japanese media.

The school said the manipulation should not have occurred and would not in the future. It said it would con-

sider retroactively admitting those who otherwise would have passed the exams, although it did not explain how it would do so. The initial media reports on the scandal said the manipulation removed as much as 10 percent of female applicants in some years.

The manipulation was revealed during an investigation into the alleged "backdoor entry" of an education ministry bureaucrat's son in exchange for favorable treatment for the school in obtaining research funds. The bureaucrat and the former head of the school have been charged with bribery.

World

Maduro alleges 2 opposition leaders linked to drone attack

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro has accused two opposition legislators of having roles in the drone attack that Venezuelan officials have called an assassination attempt on the leader, and his allies are moving against the accused.

The head of Venezuela's

pro-government constitutional assembly said he would have the body take up a proposal Wednesday to strip the lawmakers of their immunity from prosecution.

During a national television broadcast Tuesday night, Maduro said statements from some of the six suspects already ar-

rested in the weekend attack pointed to key financiers and others, including Julio Borges, one of the country's most prominent opposition leaders who is a lawmaker but is living in exile in Colombia.

“Several of the declarations indicated Julio Borges. The investigations point to him,”

Maduro said, though he provided no details on Borges' alleged role.

Borges did not immediately comment on Maduro's accusation.

The president also named opposition lawmaker Juan Requesens, who was seen in a video widely circulating on social me-

dia being arrested by Venezuela's political police force.

Critics of Maduro's socialist government had said immediately after the attack that they feared the unpopular leader would use the incident as an excuse to round up opposition politicians as he seeks to dampen spreading discontent

over Venezuela's devastating economic collapse.

In the attack, two drones armed with explosives detonated near Maduro as he spoke outdoors during a military celebration Saturday evening. Images on live television showed Maduro and his wife looking up at the sky at one blast and then hundreds of soldiers scrambling.

Prosecutors have arrested six people who face charges of treason, attempted murder and terrorism.

As elected lawmakers, Borges and Requesens enjoy immunity from prosecution under Venezuelan law. But Diosdado Cabello, the powerful socialist party leader and president of the National Constitutional Assembly, said in a tweet that he planned to introduce legislation stripping lawmakers of this protection.

The events come as Venezuela's economy continues to hemorrhage and thousands flee to neighboring nations seeking food and medical care. Maduro has grown increasingly isolated, with the United States and other foreign powers slapping economic sanctions on a growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials and criticizing his government as an autocratic regime.

The International Monetary Fund projects inflation could top 1 million percent by year's end.

Maduro spoke for two hours from the Miraflores Presidential Palace in a presentation using polished videos showing suspects and images of the drones exploding.

Experts: Iran could answer US sanctions with cyberattacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is bracing for cyberattacks Iran could launch in retaliation for the re-imposition of sanctions this week by President Donald Trump, cybersecurity and intelligence experts say.

Concern over that cyber threat has been rising since May, when Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal, under which the U.S. and other world powers eased economic sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. The experts say the threat would intensify following Washington's move Tuesday to re-impose economic restrictions on Tehran.

Wildfires torment Portugal and Spain; French, Dutch feel heat

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Firefighters and anxious residents braced Tuesday for a fifth straight night of battling a major wildfire that is racing across tinder-dry forested hills in southern Portugal.

The blaze is sending high plumes of smoke across the Algarve region's famous beaches and bringing criticism of authorities for failing to halt the flames.

A strong seasonal wind from the north known as a “nortada” was driving the fire south toward Silves, a town of about 6,000 people,

after it narrowly missed the smaller town of Monchique. Several hundred people were evacuated, and 29 were hurt, one seriously, officials said.

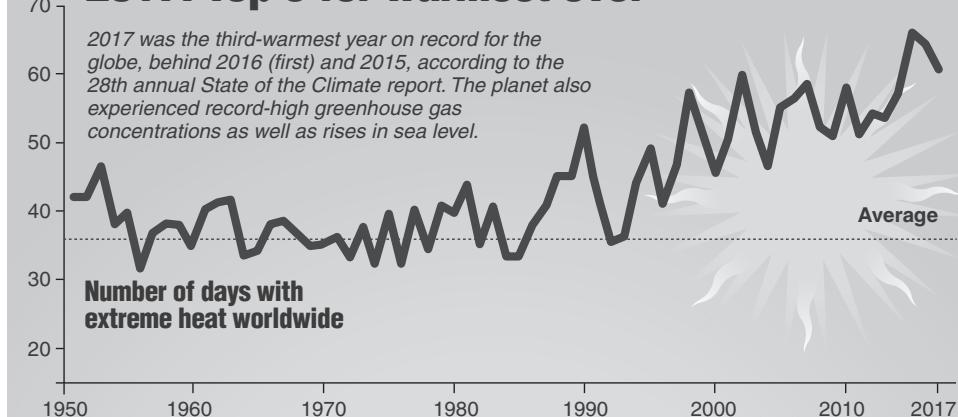
Almost 1,200 firefighters supported by 16 aircraft and 358 vehicles were deployed around Monchique, a town of 2,000 people about 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Lisbon, where the blaze came within 500 meters (yards) of the local fire station.

An unknown number of homes—believed to number in the dozens, according to local reports—in the forested



Spanish firefighters try to extinguish a wildfire in Pinet village, near Valencia Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018. AP

2017: Top 3 for warmest ever



Sea level rise hit a new high

- About 3 inches higher than the 1993 average. Global sea level is rising at an average rate of 1.2 inches per decade.

Drought dipped and then rebounded

- The global area of drought fell sharply in early 2017 before rising to above-average values later in the year.

The total number of tropical cyclones were above average

- There were 85 named tropical cyclones in 2017, slightly above the 1981-2010 average of 82 storms.

The Antarctic also saw record-low sea ice coverage

- On March 1, 2017, the sea ice extent fell to 811,000 square miles, the lowest observed daily value in the continuous satellite record that began in 1978.

hills have burned down.

With so many resources deployed, many residents asked why the fire was still burning, especially after 95 percent of it was under control on Monday.

Firefighters also publicly questioned the wisdom of the strategy to counter the flames, with some claiming poor organization was thwarting the operation. Monchique was identified as a high risk area months ago.

Firefighting is coordinated by the Civil Protection Agency, a government body overseen by the Ministry for the Interior, which oversees national defense.

The National Association of Professional Firemen and the Professional Firemen's Trade Union issued a joint statement saying that the government's recent reorganization of firefighting capabilities need to be reassessed and rethought. The organizations asked for a “very urgent” meeting with the Minister of the Interior.

The minister, Eduardo Cabrita, told reporters authorities were switching coordination of the Monchique fire from the local Civil Protection Agency to the department's national operational command in Lisbon.

He declined to criticize the firefighting operation, saying the effort had been “notable.”

Portugal beefed up its wildfire response over the

winter after 109 people died last year in forest blazes amid a severe drought.

Vitor Vaz Pinto, the Civil Protection Agency's district commander, said the weather forecast around Monchique was “unfavorable,” with a gusting wind from the north, known as a “nortada.”

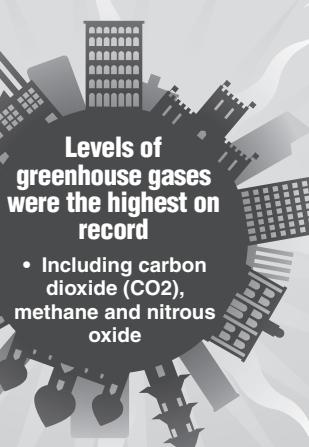
Temperatures were forecast to reach 35 C (95 F)—normal for August in southern Portugal.

The Iberian peninsula endured some record heat last weekend, with temperatures exceeding 45 C (113 F), which parched large areas.

Spanish emergency services said a wildfire Tuesday near Valencia, on the Mediterranean coast, was almost under control after two dozen aircraft were brought in. The blaze forced the evacuation of around 2,500 people.

The high temperatures moved northward to France. The hottest weather was expected in central and northeastern France, with temperatures that could reach 40 C (104 F).

Dutch authorities evacuated four campsites as a brush fire swept through parched countryside in the eastern Netherlands, where temperatures were in the mid-30s C (90s F). The regional security service said that firefighters from three provinces were battling the blaze Tuesday in Wateren, 135 kilometers (85 miles) northeast of Amsterdam.



Arctic maximum sea ice coverage fell to a record low

- The 2017 maximum extent (coverage) of Arctic sea ice was the lowest in the 38-year record.

Global land and ocean combined surface temperature near record high

- Third-warmest annual global temperature since records began in the mid-to late 1800s.

Unprecedented multiyear coral reef bleaching continued

- A global coral bleaching event spanned from June 2014 through May 2017, resulting in unprecedented impacts on reefs. More than 95 percent of coral in some affected reef areas died.

Environment

Solar cookout aims to woo traditional chefs, cut carbon

DEZHOU, China (AP)—The savory aromas of roasting hot dogs and chicken kebabs wafted out of metal and glass vacuum tubes heated by mirrors curved to capture the sun's heat.

Two dozen chefs with white aprons and hats prepared soups, baked "baozi" pork buns, and boiled rice porridge at a festival designed to demonstrate the potential of solar cookers that organizers claim can help reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions.

"We aim to enable half of the world's population to use solar cooking within 10 years," said Huang Ming, founder of Himin Solar Energy Group, the solar cookout's main backer.

As hundreds of people strolled by, chefs armed with oven mitts scaled ladders to uncover piping-hot cooking tubes arrayed on nearly 2-meter (6-foot)-tall industrial racks. Smaller-scale vendors used 1-meter (3-foot)-long solar cookers designed to fold up for picnics.

Temperatures can top 400 C (750 F) inside the black "BBQ tubes" of metal and glass with turnip-tipped bottoms and sealable tops. On a bright day, they can boil water



within 30 minutes and roast a fish in half that time, according to Himin.

"It is clean and smoke-free . better than cooking with pots and other things," said Yu Liqiu, 22, a chef, who just began cooking with solar two days earlier.

Kavanaugh's record on EPA rules worries environmental groups

By GEOFF MULVIGHILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmental groups were not going to be happy with anyone President Donald Trump picked for the Supreme Court. But the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh has them especially worried.

A conservative who would replace the more moderate Justice Anthony Kennedy, Kavanaugh has a record of slapping back Environmental Protection Agency regulations during his 12 years as a federal appeals court judge.

Kavanaugh could shift the court to the right in many areas. But Kennedy was especially pivotal on environmental cases, ruling with the majority on nearly all of them over 30 years on the bench — and often siding with the environmentalists in the biggest cases.

Kavanaugh has a narrower view of what environmental protections the federal government can implement. That was clear from an Associated Press review of his opinions while on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, along with other writings and speeches.

"It threatens to take us back to the old days," said Pat Gallagher, the legal director at the Sierra Club, recalling environmental disasters from the 1960s and '70s. "The Cuyahoga River, Love Canal — when there was no environmental protection."

Kavanaugh's backers don't see him as anti-environment.

"His rulings in cases involving the EPA say far more about the aggressive nature of the EPA in terms of trying to stretch beyond its breaking point its mandate from Congress," said John Malcolm, vice president of the conservative Heritage Foundation's Institute for Constitutional Government.

Republicans hope the Senate can confirm Kavanaugh by the time the court's next session begins Oct. 1. But that is in doubt because of delays in reviewing documents related to Kavanaugh's time in President George W. Bush's administration.

In his opinions on environmental issues, Kavanaugh has often stressed the importance of policies to protect against climate change before saying that Congress, not the EPA, should create those policies.

Dezhou, a sprawling city of 5 million in eastern China, has spent millions since 2005 on transforming itself into an aspiring renewable energy hub called the "Solar Valley."

Public art displays at town bus stops and murals use solar panels. Stone statues of sun-related Chinese legends squat in parks.

China is the world's big-

gest consumer and producer of solar technologies. Many homes outside the largest cities are equipped with solar water heaters.

But roughly 600 million of

In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, chefs prepare to cook buns in a solar cooker that uses a metal and glass vacuum tube heated by mirrors curved to capture the sun's heat in Dezhou in the eastern Shandong province in China. AP

China's 1.4 billion people still cook with coal, wood or other biomass despite decades of government-led initiatives to curtail soot from such burning, according to a 2016 report by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.

Affordable yet durable solar cookers have long intrigued those seeking to cut emissions, said Frank Haugwitz, director of Asia Europe Clean Energy Solar Advisory Company.

"There's a certainly a need for a cleaner option," he said.

Eastern China is a "global hotspot" for black carbon emissions — sooty particulates more damaging to health and the environment than typical greenhouse gases — according to a 2007 report in the academic journal *Nature*. Half of China's black carbon comes from residential kitchens and heaters.

14,000 firefighters battling 18 major California blazes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Some 14,000 firefighters, including inmate volunteers, are battling 18 major blazes burning thousands of square miles throughout California with aircraft, assorted vehicles and shovels.

They take aim at the biggest wildfires in two ways and in much of the same way the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has for decades. They'll go at it directly with water and retardant where they can.

And when they can't take that direct approach, firefighters retreat to a ridge, wide road or stream where they use bulldozers to cut a "fire line." There they'll wait for the blaze to come to them while lighting "backfires" to clear vegetation between the fire line and the approaching blaze.

Experts say whichever approach Cal Fire takes, California firefighters are often more aggressive in trying to extinguish wildfires than those in other less-populated states. That's because California wildfires are increasingly threatening sprawling urban areas.

"Cal Fire is really an urban firefighter service in the woods," said Arizona State University life sciences pro-

fessor Stephen Pyne, a wildfire management expert.

Cal Fire spokesman Scott McLean said firefighters use both approaches to battle the large blazes, including the growing twin fires about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco.

McLean said firefighters are using the direct approach to prevent the fires from reaching urban areas along Clear Lake while retreating in national forests "and letting the fire come to us."

Those two fires grew to a combined 443 square miles

(1,148 square kilometers) to become the state's largest wildfire.

McLean and fire experts say it's impossible to surround a fire that large, especially with 17 other major fires requiring attention in the state.

"We are building lines. Picking and choosing where we think we can take a stand," McLean said. "Attacking it where we can and waiting and letting it come to us when appropriate."

McLean said firefighters are using direct means to prevent the twin fires from reaching evacuated urban ar-

eas on the east side of Clear Lake. At the same time, firefighters have pulled back in the uninhabited national forests to the north, where they have cut fire lines and are employing indirect methods.

Experts say the best way to fight these destructive wildfires is to prevent them in the first place when building homes and other buildings.

"It's the embers, not the fire itself, that destroy most homes," said Steve Conboy, a construction expert whose company develops fire-resistant chemicals to apply to wood.

In this Saturday, July 8, 2017, file photo, inmate firefighters battle a wildfire near Oroville, Calif. AP



Life & Style

Disney says its new streaming service won't rival Netflix

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney's upcoming streaming service won't try to compete directly with Netflix and Amazon, but will focus instead on quality—namely original programs from Disney's "Star Wars," Pixar and Marvel brands.

The details from Disney CEO Bob Iger came as Disney reported a growth in earnings for the latest quarter, though results missed expectations.

With Comcast out of the bidding war, Disney is planning to move forward with its \$71.3 billion purchase of Fox's entertainment assets, in part to boost a Disney-branded streaming service set to launch in late 2019. Disney's share-

holders and U.S. regulators have approved the Fox bid. Disney is awaiting regulatory approval overseas.

In a statement, Iger said he was excited about "opportunities ahead for continued growth."

Disney is building the streaming service as more people switch from traditional cable TV bundles to streaming online through services like Amazon and Netflix.

Disney just launched a \$5-a-month ESPN Plus streaming service with sports. If the Fox deal closes, it will have a controlling stake in Hulu, which offers a broad array of programming start-

ing at \$8 a month. With the Disney-branded entertainment service, Disney will have more control over its movies and TV shows from creation to distribution. That ultimately gives Disney more data to gauge its audience.

Though a price for the upcoming entertainment service hasn't been set, Iger told analysts during a conference call that the price will reflect a lower volume of shows and movies. Netflix plans range from \$8 to \$14 a month.

In the works for the Disney service are a live-action "Star Wars" series, new episodes of the animated "Star Wars" series "Clone Wars," a live-ac-

ting version of "Lady and the Tramp" and new series related to the "High School Musical" and "Monsters Inc." movies.

Launching the streaming service is Disney's biggest priority next year, Iger said. "There will be a significant amount of support given across all of our assets to see to it that the product launches successfully."

Some of Disney's properties, such as the original "Star Wars" trilogy, have licensing agreements already

in place with other companies, so they won't be available, at least initially.

But Iger said that movies Disney plans to release in 2019, including "Captain Marvel," "Dumbo," "Toy Story 4" and "Frozen 2," won't be encumbered by licensing deals and can go straight to the service soon after their theatrical releases.

In the fiscal third quarter, Disney's net income rose 23 percent to \$2.92 billion, or

\$1.95 per share, from \$2.37 billion, or \$1.51 per share, a year ago. Excluding one-time items like a benefit from lower federal tax rates, income was \$1.87 per share. The average estimate of four analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for adjusted earnings of \$1.97 per share.

Revenue rose 7 percent to \$15.23 billion in the period, short of the \$15.49 billion expected by four analysts surveyed by Zacks.

Jim Carrey: My Trump cartoons are response to 'nightmare'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jim Carrey says his cartoons pillorying the Trump administration are a civilized response to what he called an unfolding "nightmare."

Carrey told a TV critics' meeting Monday that his sketches may veer into crassness but are a creative way to



Carrey

express his political opposition.

He stars in the new Showtime series "Kidding," about a children's TV host hit by a family tragedy, which debuts Sept. 9.

Those who have gotten the cartoon treatment

include President Donald Trump and White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Carrey's sketch of Sanders was blasted as sexist and bigoted by Sanders' father, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Some critics called it ugly, but Carrey says he didn't use the word and drew Sanders' essence.

Miss America head Gretchen Carlson seeks 'healing process'

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Gretchen Carlson, the former Fox News host now in charge of the Miss America Organization, says the organization needs to heal a rift that has seen 20 state groups call for her and other top leaders to resign.

In an interview with The Associated Press that Carlson said would be her last on the subject, she said Miss America officials at all levels need to be "on the same page" and she hoped that would happen before the next Miss America is crowned in Atlantic City on Sept. 9.

"It would be important that we all try to come together and have a healing process," she said.

Yet Carlson, chairwoman of the Miss America Organization, dismissed critics as "a noisy minority" unhappy over the elimination of the swimsuit competition from this year's nationally televised broadcast and resistant to change in general.

Carlson, who was Miss America in 1989, also said on Tuesday the decision to eliminate the swimsuit competition has made the pageant more relevant and has been praised by many supporters who considered the pageant outdated and demeaning to women.

Twenty-two state-level pageant officials last month signed a

letter expressing no confidence in Carlson, president and CEO Regina Hopper and the current board, claiming "Miss America 2.0" is simply a new title for the same old tactics of obfuscation and fear-based governance." Two states later disassociated themselves from the letter, Carlson said.

Several opponents told the AP actions are being considered for the week of the Miss America competition, including litigation, news conferences and public demonstrations outside Boardwalk Hall, where the pageant will take place. However, at least 30 former Miss Americas have voiced confidence in the current leadership.

Hopper said critics are unhappy that Miss America is eliminating the swimsuit competition, a staple of the pageant since it debuted in 1921. She said the reinvention of Miss America is a turnaround that would typically take two to four years in the corporate world but had to be done in eight months, forcing people to come to terms with it much quicker than usual.

Carlson and Hopper were among a wave of female leadership swept into office after emails from former pageant leaders denigrating the appearance, intellect and sex lives of

ex-Miss Americas surfaced last December. But the decision to drop the swimsuit competition and the way opponents say it was presented to them led many to rethink their initial support for the new regime.

Many opponents say Carlson and others presented the swimsuit elimination as an ultimatum, coupled with a threat that the pageant would lose its national television broadcast if swimsuits were retained.

"We were told we had a choice—it was either swimsuit or TV," said Leah Summers, executive director of the Miss West Virginia Organization.

"I heard from Regina Hopper and Gretchen Carlson that sponsors and networks will not come if we had swimsuit," added Jennifer Vaden Barth, a former board member and former Miss North Carolina.

Vaden Barth said when she and others questioned that, "they said, 'No, no, no, we didn't mean ABC, we were talking about production companies.'" An ABC spokeswoman told the AP the network never threatened to cancel the broadcast, and Hopper confirmed that in January, months before the swimsuit decision was made, ABC agreed to broadcast the pageant.

Shortly after the season premiere, it was discovered that Yrigoyen had liked Instagram posts that mocked transgender people, feminists and Parkland, Florida, shooting survivor David Hogg. He responded quickly by deleting the account and apologizing, describing the likes as "mindless taps."

Yrigoyen, 29, said the hardest part was criticism that Kufrin received.

"I felt like she was getting personally attacked because of my actions," Yrigoyen told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. "I'm trying

to better myself and realize the mistakes that I've made."

Kufrin, 28, said it was difficult to see the negativity surrounding the man she's in love with while they were keeping their engagement a secret so the show could play out.

"He's one of the most open, supportive men to everyone he encounters and so to not have the world see that, and to say such terrible, negative things about his character was really hard. I knew that we would have this moment once we could finally be in public to address it," she said.

She chose Yrigoyen in Monday's finale over Blake Horstmann.

Kufrin was first a contestant on "The Bachelor," where she got engaged to

Arie Luyendyk Jr., only to have him dump her on camera for his runner-up, Lauren Burnham. She said her time on "The Bachelor" made her mindful of her suitors' feelings on "The Bachelorette."

"I knew at the end of this it's inevitable that hearts are gonna break but I wanted to treat all the guys how I would want to be treated," she said.

The couple wants to invite many former castmates to their wedding.

"I made some really solid friendships last year with the girls and he did the same with the guys," Kufrin said.

"I think Wills and John would have a dance-off probably," said Yrigoyen, referring to Wills Reid and John Graham.

'The Bachelorette' and new fiancé ready to move forward



In this undated photo provided ABC, Becca Kufrin, left, drinks with Garrett Yrigoyen in an episode of the "The Bachelorette".

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC's "Bachelorette" Becca Kufrin and her new fiancé, Garrett Yrigoyen, hope to move forward after controversy.

Shortly after the season premiere, it was discovered that Yrigoyen had liked Instagram posts that mocked transgender people, feminists and Parkland, Florida,

shooting survivor David Hogg. He responded quickly by deleting the account and apologizing, describing the likes as "mindless taps."

Yrigoyen, 29, said the hardest part was criticism that Kufrin received.

"I felt like she was getting personally attacked because of my actions," Yrigoyen told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. "I'm trying

 **SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**
Angelina Jolie Pitt wants divorce finalized by year's end

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie Pitt says she wants her divorce from Brad Pitt finalized before the end of the year. The declarations came in a request for a case-management hearing filed Tuesday by Jolie Pitt's attorneys in Los Angeles Superior Court. The document says her attorneys will work with Pitt's lawyers to ensure the actors are single again in 2018. The court filing contends Pitt "has paid no meaningful child support" since the couple's separation. It says he has failed to live up to their informal financial arrangements, and she'll seek a court order to get retroactive payments from him. Pitt's attorney Lance Spiegel did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Jolie Pitt filed for divorce nearly two years ago and currently has primary custody of their six children.



Jolie

management hearing filed Tuesday by Jolie Pitt's attorneys in Los Angeles Superior Court. The document says her attorneys will work with Pitt's lawyers to ensure the actors are single again in 2018. The court filing contends Pitt "has paid no meaningful child support" since the couple's separation. It says he has failed to live up to their informal financial arrangements, and she'll seek a court order to get retroactive payments from him. Pitt's attorney Lance Spiegel did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Jolie Pitt filed for divorce nearly two years ago and currently has primary custody of their six children.

Final suspect arrested in slaying of rapper XXXTentacion

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The fourth suspect in the shooting death of emerging South Florida rap star XXXTentacion has turned himself in to authorities. The Broward County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Tuesday evening that 20-year-old Trayvon Newsome was taken into custody after surrendering at his lawyer's Fort Lauderdale office around 5 p.m. Newsome and three other men are accused of killing XXXTentacion (ex-ex-ex-ten-

ta-see-YAWN) in June. The 20-year-old rap star, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, was fatally shot as he left a motorcycle dealership. Officials have said a struggle ensued when the rapper's sports car was blocked by another vehicle, two masked gunmen approached and shot XXXTentacion multiple times. The gunmen fled with a Louis Vuitton bag containing \$50,000. Newsome was booked into Broward County's Main Jail on charges of first-degree murder and robbery with a deadly weapon.

Nathan Fillion ready for action in 'The Rookie,' sort of

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Nathan Fillion is ready for action as a police officer in ABC's new drama "The Rookie"—up to a point. Fillion told a TV critics' meeting Tuesday that his "knees would appreciate it" if he can have a stuntman do the running for him. The 47-year-old actor joked that at this point in his life, "kneeling is a stunt for me." In "The Rookie," Fillion plays a man whose midlife crisis leads him to the Los Angeles Police Department. Fillion, who starred in ABC's "Castle," said he believes there's a cultural wave of people reinventing their lives like his character in "The Rookie." The drama, which includes Richard T. Jones, Afton Williamson and Alyssa Diaz in the cast, debuts Oct. 16.

For ABC's new 'A Million Little Things,' life mirrors art

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Life mirrored art during ABC's promotion of its new fall drama "A Million Little Things." The series is about a group of people who

became friends after being trapped in an elevator. As the actors and producers concluded a Q&A with TV reporters at a hotel, an ABC spokeswoman relayed an ironic turn of events: Guests were stuck in an elevator on the eighth floor. The elevator malfunction is a small part of "A Million Little Things." The series opens with the suicide of one of the friends and follows the impact of his death. There was a happy ending at the hotel, with the guests safely exiting the elevator. The ensemble cast of "A Million Little Things," debuting Sept. 26, includes Ron Livingston, James Roday and Grace Park.

Ruby Rose cast as lesbian superhero Batwoman for The CW

NEW YORK (AP)—Ruby



Rose

Rose is making history with her latest role as Batwoman, the first openly gay superhero to headline a TV series. Batwoman will be introduced in a December crossover event between the network's other DC Comics shows, "Arrow," "The Flash" and "Supergirl." A stand-alone series about Batwoman, whose real name is Kate Kane, is in development for the 2019-20 TV season. Kane is described as a highly-trained street fighter with a passion for social justice and a flair for speaking her mind. Rose wrote Tuesday on

City: Remove Trump star from Hollywood Walk of Fame

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The West Hollywood City Council has unanimously approved a resolution seeking the removal of Donald Trump's star from the Hollywood Walk of Fame for the president's "disturbing treatment of women and other actions." Monday's vote isn't likely to get the intended result. The tourist attraction

is in neighboring Los Angeles and it's run by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Leron Gubler tells the Los Angeles Times the chamber has never removed a star because each is considered part of the walk's "historic fabric." The council vote came after a man used a pickax to destroy the star last month and was charged with a felony count of vandalism. The star, which has been repaired, recognized Trump for his work on the reality show "The Apprentice." West Hollywood is a decidedly anti-Trump city. Last spring Mayor John Duran declared it "Stormy Daniels Day" and gave a key to the city to the porn actress who is suing Trump over a confidentiality agreement for an affair she claims they had.


'REMOVE TRUMP STAR'

This July 25, 2018, file photo shows Donald Trump's vandalized star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. The West Hollywood City Council has unanimously approved a resolution seeking to remove President Donald Trump's star from the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The resolution urges the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Los Angeles to remove the star because of what it says is Trump's "disturbing treatment of women and other actions."

AP

Mom charges daughter-in-law rent even after the wedding

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law owns the building my husband and I live in. I moved in with him about a year ago, before we were married. Because she owns the building, she doesn't charge her son rent to live there but asks that he help manage the building, which takes about three hours a month. (He has a full-time job outside of managing the building.)

When I moved in, his mom asked that I pay rent. I guess in the back of my mind I thought it would change after we got married. Do you think I'm a brat for thinking I shouldn't have to pay rent? The amount she's charging me is about what I would pay if we lived in another building and split the rent between us.

I don't know how to approach this, or if I'd be stepping out of line to request living somewhere rent-free. Please help.

RENT-FREE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR RENT-FREE: You are being treated like a tenant, not a daughter-in-law. As a member of the family, you should be treated the same as her son. By all means discuss this with him, and while you're at it, suggest he split your share of the rent 50/50 because you are all family now.

DEAR ABBY: My 30-year-old daughter has extremely high

expectations for her birthday. No one in the family has ever given her a gift that she liked, so now we actually have to get the gift approved by her husband first!

She doesn't like gift cards, and our budget is small. Although she barely acknowledges anyone else's birthday, she still expects the "perfect" present for her own. We love her and want to celebrate with her, but the expectations and confrontations make her birthdays miserable for everyone—including her. How do we stop this?

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

DEAR BIRTHDAY: Who created this self-entitled monster? Remind your daughter and her husband that you are all adults now, and because of that, "the family" has decided from now on to mark milestones with greeting cards instead of gifts. Period. If you want to celebrate with her in addition, fine, but her behavior "takes the cake."

DEAR ABBY: I am wondering about current etiquette concerning work emails. I work in the office of a financial institution and receive multiple emails from customers and fellow employees every day. Our e-mail system recognizes when a word is spelled incorrectly. If I receive an email that has a misspelled word in it and I must reply to it, is it rude to correct the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

other person's spelling error?

UNSURE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR UNSURE: If you do what you are contemplating, the recipient may find it insulting, so I don't recommend it. However well-intentioned, it could lose the company a client or annoy your co-workers.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

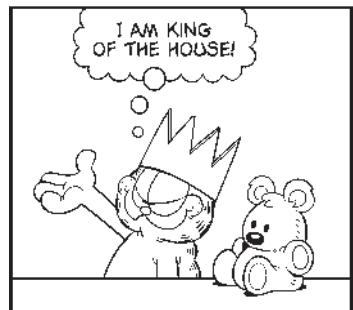
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home

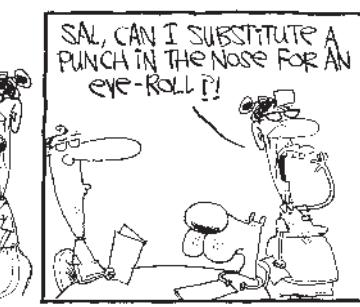


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Pear variety
- 5 Shape
- 9 Pinnacle
- 12 Canyon sound
- 13 "Money — object"
- 14 Med. plan option
- 15 Pizza specifica- tion
- 17 Hostel
- 18 Stock- piles
- 19 Banks of baseball
- 21 While
- 22 Carries
- 24 Lascivi- ous
- 27 Upper limit
- 28 Related
- 31 Packed away
- 32 Mimic
- 33 Chemical suffix
- 34 Hearing- impaired
- 36 Twitch
- 37 Winter fall
- 38 Barber's tool
- 40 Letters of approval?

DOWN

- 41 Surplus
- 43 Sistine Chapel mural
- 47 "I'm not im- pressed"
- 48 Like delicate crepes
- 51 Half of bi-
- 52 Sulk
- 53 Doves' home
- 54 — Salvador
- 55 Pond growth
- 56 Tackles weeds
- 1 "Little Women" sister
- 10 Hotel chain
- 11 Corn recipe
- 16 LPs' suc- cessors
- 20 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 27 Roman censor
- 29 Altar promise
- 30 Just out
- 35 Distant
- 37 Quick drawing
- 39 Rocker Frank
- 40 Hockey's Bobby
- 41 Flight- less birds
- 42 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 43 Greek salad cheese
- 44 "Scram!"
- 45 Refer to
- 46 Singles
- 49 "You've got mail"
- 50 Boxer

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Ade- laide Kane, 28; Anna Kendrick, 33; Gillian An- derson, 50; Hoda Kotb, 54.

Happy Birthday: Look at what you can accomplish, not impossible tasks. Don't waste your time trying to live up to someone else's demands or life- style. Do your own thing and follow the path you find most liberating. By pacing yourself this year you will build up the energy and reserves mentally, emotionally and financially to accomplish new goals next year. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 26, 34, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Piece together your plan of action. Sticking to simple, effective transitions will prove to be seamless and gratifying. Share your long-term plans with someone close to you. Be willing to compromise to accommodate someone you love and respect. ☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Situations will change rapidly. You'll have to be ready to deal with matters without letting your emotions lead you down the wrong path. A responsible approach to what needs to be done will help you avoid unnecessary mistakes. ☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Speed up the process when bringing about personal or physical changes. Your personal and professional lives will clash if you cannot find a way to distribute your time evenly. Educational pursuits will help you achieve your professional goals. ☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put greater emphasis on your creative goals. Develop a plan that will help you incorporate what you enjoy doing into a moneymaking ven-

ture. Stressful situations will lead to ill health. Take time to relax and rejuvenate. Don't take on physical demands. ☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work behind the scenes. Pay close attention to every little detail before you decide to share what you are doing with others. If you are too open, someone will encourage you to expand too quickly. Moderation is in your best interest. ☀️

VIRO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for solutions and you'll be considered an asset to any group you contribute to. Protect against loss when divvying up an estate, winnings or a settlement that includes others. A lifestyle change will improve your emotional outlook. ☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put a little passion into whatever you do. Whether it's an adventure with someone you love or a change you make to the way you live, it will encourage you to finish what you start. Make a commitment. ☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep your plans a secret until you have everything in place. Someone will interfere if your plan doesn't live up to his or her expectations. Look out for your interests and be willing to walk away from anyone making too many demands. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've got everything under control. Speak up and bring about changes you can afford. If someone suggests excessive additions to your plans, ask that person to pay for the updates. Honest discussions will bring the best results. ☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make suggestions and carry out your plans. Bring about changes that will improve your domestic environment and make you feel at home and comfortable with your surroundings. Convenience and comfort will make a difference to your emotional outlook. ☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dis- cussions will be difficult if one or more people involved overreact. Make a point to stick to your script and to make your thoughts concise for anyone who may try to entice you to take on more than you can handle. ☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for ways to bring in more cash, but don't get involved in a get-rich-quick scheme that has the potential to backfire. If you want to bring about positive change, add to your qualifications and work hard to achieve your goals. ☀️

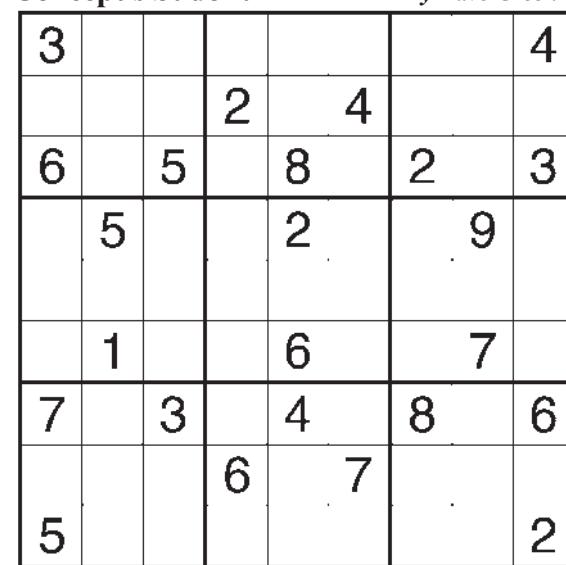
Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, popular and demanding. You are outgoing and demonstrative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

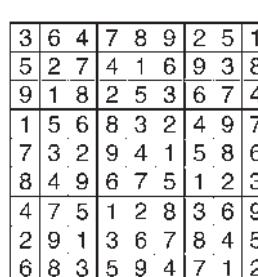
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S BE PERTINENT

Solution: 8 letters



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8/9

Accountable, Accurate, Admissible, Advice, Apposite, Aware, Bear, Clear, Comment, Connection, Data, Decisive, Direct, Exact, Fact, Fair, Fitting, Germane, Idea, Leader, Legit, Licit, Likely, Logical, Matters, Observation, On Topic, Point, Pure, Reference, Relevant, Significant, Similar, Suitable, Support, Tenable, Useful

Yesterday's Answer: Taste

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENTINVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 18-OGM-130 (A-B)

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 45 HP TRACTOR (A) AND FIVE (5) ATTACHMENTS/IMPLEMENT (B) FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare CorporationREQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/MCHB-010

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 17, 2018 TIME: 11:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. JAKOPO
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CLOSING DATE: August 10, 2018 at 4:30pm

WHATZIT Solution: More money than sense

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Carmelo verbally agrees to sign with Rockets



HOUSTON (AP)—Carmelo Anthony has verbally reached an agreement to sign with the Houston Rockets, league sources said.

Anthony cleared free-agency waivers last week after a trade to the Atlanta Hawks on July 30 and his subsequent release, but had yet to commit to the Rockets. Anthony informed Houston of his decision to sign Tuesday after returning from Africa, league sources said. Anthony had unveiled a refurbished basketball court in South Africa last week.

After the loss of forwards Trevor Ariza and Luc Mbah a Moute, the Rockets prioritized Anthony, and the 10-time All-Star worked out repeatedly with Houston stars James Harden and Chris Paul this summer.

Anthony opted in to the final year of his five-year maximum contract worth \$27.9 million before free agency, but when the Thunder re-signed Paul George, the franchise and Anthony elected to part ways. The decision to trade Anthony in a three-team deal allowed the Thunder to acquire Dennis Schroder from the Hawks and save significantly on luxury tax.



AP
This is an April 25, 2018, file photo showing Oklahoma City Thunder forward Carmelo Anthony (7) during Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Utah Jazz, in Oklahoma City.

Anthony averaged a career-low 16.2 points and 5.8 rebounds in 78 games for the Thunder last season. Oklahoma City acquired Anthony in a trade with the New York Knicks on the eve of training camp last September. Anthony transitioned to a full-time role

at power forward, attempted the fewest shots in his career and spent most of the season adjusting to his role alongside Russell Westbrook and George.

In 15 seasons with Denver, New York and Oklahoma City, Anthony has averaged

24.1 points, 6.5 rebounds and three assists.

In Memphis, the Grizzlies have signed guard Shelvin Mack.

Terms of the deals weren't disclosed.

The 6-foot-3 Mack played 69 games for the Orlando

Magic last season and averaged 6.9 points, 2.4 rebounds and a career-high 3.9 assists in 19.8 minutes. He shot 43 percent from the field and 34.5 percent from 3-point range.

Mack, 28, has played 399 regular-season games and has career averages of 6.4 points, 2

rebounds, 3.1 assists and 17.9 minutes. He also has appeared in 30 postseason games.

The former second-round draft pick from Butler played for the Washington Wizards, Philadelphia 76ers, Atlanta Hawks and Utah Jazz before joining Orlando.

Spieth takes another run at career Grand Slam at PGA



ST. LOUIS (AP)—The spotlight was downright searing when Jordan Spieth arrived at Quail Hollow last summer, fresh off a victory at Royal Birkdale that had put him on the precipice of the career Grand Slam.

He didn't wilt. Didn't even waver.

Spieth just didn't win, putting together four consistent-if-unspectacular rounds that left him tied for 28th, well behind good buddy Justin Thomas. It was a good PGA Championship for a player that had come to expect greatness or at least have greatness expected of him.

But it also meant an entire year waiting for another shot at the Slam.

"I think I was probably a little more anxious last year, just because there was a big focus right after winning the Open Championship," Spieth said Tuesday as thunder boomed and rain pelted Bellerive Country Club, washing out many practice rounds. "I was fresh, in form, going to a place where if I worked up the leaderboard I could create a lot of noise."

That noise? It's softened considerably during the last year, and the spotlight that ac-

companied him to Quail Hollow shines a little less brightly on Spieth in St. Louis.

He's yet to win since Royal Birkdale, the missed cuts becoming too frequent for comfort. He looked as if he might be turning the corner at the British Open last month when he shot 65 on Saturday to surge into contention, but a birdie-less Sunday and final-round 76 dropped him to the wayside.

He followed that with three rounds in the 70s at the Bridgestone Invitational last week, leaving him a full 20 shots off the pace—and outside the top 20 for the eighth consecutive event.

"I'm a little under the radar this year, and I don't mind it," Spieth acknowledged, "but at the same time, this tournament will always be circled until hopefully I win it one day."

The 25-year-old Spieth has only taken that one crack at joining Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tiger Woods in completing the modern Grand Slam. But history suggests that if he doesn't lift the Wanamaker Trophy soon, Spieth might never accomplish the feat.

Nicklaus needed just three tries after winning the PGA in '63 to win his first British Open, and Player likewise needed

three tries after the '65 U.S. Open to win his first British.

Woods needed about a month between the U.S. Open and British Open in 2000, then added the PGA a few weeks later and the Masters the following year to hold all four majors at the same time.

"I only had to think about it for about a month," Woods said of the career Slam. "I had won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach and the Open Championship was at St. Andrews a month later, so I wasn't really asked a lot, other than, 'What would it be like to complete the career Grand Slam at St. Andrews?'

He certainly didn't have to endure the questions that followed Arnold Palmer, who tried for more than three decades to finish the Slam at the PGA, or Tom Watson, or spent 24 years chasing it.

Or the questions that have started to follow Rory McIlroy, who needs to win the Masters, and Phil Mickelson, who has played the U.S. Open five times without capturing the only major he's missing.

"Having had a few goes at it, I think less expectations is better," McIlroy said. "Trying to take pressure off yourself, trying to treat it like any normal week, just trying to win the

golf tournament that week, sort of put it out of your head that what winning this golf tournament would mean in terms of your legacy and your place in the game. So, yeah, I mean I can probably relate a little bit."

If nothing else, Spieth should have plenty of support this week.

His beloved grandfather, Bob Julius, and most of his mother's side of the family was raised in the St. Louis area. And while Gramps has been there for many of his career-defining moments, there are many distant relatives that will get to see him compete for the first time this week.

"It's really fun," Spieth said, "when you get a chance to play in front of family."

It would be even more fun to make history in front of them.

"I'm sure Jordan feels a little bit different this week than he does the other three majors, but that's normal," McIlroy said. "It's a big deal, but I think, once you get out on the golf course and you start the tournament, all you're thinking about is trying to shoot good scores and hit good shots."

"So he's shown over the past few years he's mentally very good, so I'm sure he won't have a problem."

Davis Love III to mark 100th major

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Davis Love III will join a select group led by Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player when he participates in his 100th major championship this weekend in St. Louis.

Love's streak began with the 1986 PGA Championship at Inverness, and the 100th will come at this year's PGA at Bellerive. In between, he won the 1997 tournament with an unforgettable rainbow providing the backdrop to the 18th green at Winged Foot.

Love has struggled with injuries in recent years, but a hip replacement has helped with some of the pain he'd been feeling. He hopes that his health will allow him to play in many more majors.

"As long as I can compete and have some fun," he said, "and not get in the way."

Meanwhile, Dustin Johnson forgot to pack shorts when he was getting ready for the PGA Championship.

Good thing he remembered pants.

The world's top-ranked player forgot that the PGA of America decided last year to begin allowing players in the championships it conducts to

wear shorts during practice rounds. Johnson even showed a little leg at Quail Hollow, joining roughly half the field in wearing them.

But when he was busy stuffing his suitcase for Bellerive Country Club this week, Johnson must have gotten into the week-to-week PGA Tour zone: Trousers are required every day out there.

"I definitely forgot," he said, grinning. "Today I was going to play really early this morning so it wasn't going to be too hot, so I just wore pants. And when I did it last year at Quail Hollow, it almost felt kind of weird wearing shorts, especially when I wear pants every single day."

Quite a few players wore shorts for practice rounds Monday, when temperatures soared into the upper 90s. Heavy storms rolled through Tuesday to provide some relief from the heat, but they also prevented anybody from getting onto the course until late in the morning, by which point the rapidly rising humidity had made the conditions only slightly more bearable.

"It's going to be hot," Tiger Woods said, "and it's going to be wet."

Colon gets historic win as Rangers top Mariners



ARLINGTON, Texas

(AP)—Bartolo Colon became the top-winning pitcher born in Latin America, punctuating his 246th career victory with a nifty snag as the Texas Rangers roughed up Felix Hernandez and the Seattle Mariners 11-4 on Tuesday night.

The 45-year-old Colon, from the Dominican Republic, made his sixth start since earning his 245th win on June 30 that matched the mark held by Dennis Martinez from Nicaragua.

Colon (6-10) gave up four runs in seven innings. The portly and popular right-hander struck out one and walked none.

Adrian Beltre, Jurickson Profar and Rougned Odor homered off Hernandez (8-10), who allowed a career-high 11 runs—seven earned—in six innings.

"I thought (first baseman Jurickson) Profar was going to throw the ball away to the public, to the fans," Colon said through a translator. "But I saw it and then I started laughing because it happened that way."

"It was a long journey, but it finally came and it feels good," said Colon, who got his last out against Dee Gordon on his 94th pitch.

Angels 11, Tigers 5

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer during a seven-run first inning, and the Angels celebrated Mike Trout's 27th birthday with a victory over the Tigers.

Trout missed his sixth consecutive game with a sore right wrist, but his teammates maintained a celebratory mood at the Big A with 13 hits in their second straight win over the Tigers.

Ohtani's 411-foot homer was his third in August, and he added a single for his third multihit performance in five games. Andrew Heaney (7-7) lasted five innings for the win.

Pirates 10, Rockies 2

In Denver, Jameson Taillon beat Chad Bettis in a matchup of pitchers who battled testicular cancer last year, and the Pirates hit three homers.

Taillon (9-8) allowed 10 hits in his second complete game of the season. The 26-year-old right-hander struck out three and walked one, helping Pittsburgh stop a three-game slide.

Starling Marte hit a solo drive in the first and Jordy Mercer connected for a three-run shot against Bettis (5-2) with two out in the fourth. Josh Harrison capped Pittsburgh's five-run fifth with a two-run homer off Jake McGee.

Nationals 8, Braves 3, Game 1 Braves 3, Nationals 1, Game 2

In Washington, Ender Inciarte snapped a ninth-inning tie with a two-run triple, helping Atlanta to a doubleheader split.

In the opener, Bryce Harper and Ryan Zimmerman hit consecutive homers to spark a four-run fourth inning that carried Washington to the victory.

Seeking to blunt the momentum of the surging Nationals, Atlanta shook off a strong pitching performance by Max Scherzer before striking against the Washington bullpen in the second game.

Freddie Freeman and Nick Markakis singled off Kelvin Herrera (1-2) before Inciarte hit a liner down the first-base line.

Yankees 4, White Sox 3, 13 innings

In Chicago, Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 13th inning, sending the Yankees in the victory.

Andujar also led off the seventh with his 15th homer. Sonny Gray (9-8) pitched three scoreless innings to get the win in his first appearance since losing his spot in the starting rotation.

New York slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the 10th, but Jose Abreu hit a two-run shot in the bottom half for Chicago.

Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 7, 10 innings

In Toronto, Mitch Moreland hit a three-run homer during Boston's five-run 10th inning, and the Red Sox earned their fifth straight win.

Moreland's one-out shot off Ken Giles (0-3) followed a triple by Mookie Betts and a walk by Andrew Benintendi. Jackie Bradley Jr. added a two-run homer later in the inning.

Boston closer Craig Kimbrel (3-1) gave up a solo homer to Justin Smoak with one out in the ninth inning, tying it at 5. It was Kimbrel's second blown save in four outings.

Cardinals 3, Marlins 2

In Miami, Matt Carpenter hit his 30th homer for St. Louis, a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning.

Carpenter connected for the fourth time in five games and increased his career high for home runs. He also extended his streak of reaching base safely to 26 games, the longest active string in the majors.

Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer in the seventh for the Cardinals, who have won eight of 12. Miles Mikolas (12-3) pitched seven innings, allowing two runs and five hits.



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Bartolo Colon throws during the first inning of the team's game against the Seattle Mariners, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018, in Arlington, Texas.

Twins 3, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Minnesota's Fernando Rodney struck out Francisco Lindor with the tying run on second base in the ninth inning, helping the Twins to the win.

Lindor homered in the eighth but struck out looking on a 2-2 pitch as Rodney recorded his 325th career save—moving him into 17th place on the career list.

Twins left-hander Adalberto Mejia (2-0) pitched five innings of one-hit ball before departing due to a strained left wrist.

Indians right-hander Carlos Carrasco (13-6) allowed three runs and 10 hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Phillies 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Nick Pivetta threw six scoreless innings for Phila-

delphia, and Nick Williams homered.

Pivetta (7-9) scattered five hits, struck out six and walked one to get his first win in four starts.

The Phillies, who blew a 2-0 lead in the ninth inning and lost 3-2 in 14 in a 4-hour, 38-minute game on Monday, led 5-0 after a four-run eighth.

Zack Greinke (12-7) allowed only Williams' solo homer on three hits in seven innings but lost his second straight.

Pat Neshek pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save.

Dodgers 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Rich Hill pitched into the sixth to beat his former club for the first time, and the Dodgers stopped the Athletics' six-game winning streak.

Hill (5-4) allowed two runs over 5 1/3 innings. He is 3-1 with a 3.12 ERA in eight

road starts.

Kenley Jansen closed it out with a pair of strikeouts in a perfect ninth for his 32nd save.

Khris Davis hit a two-run homer in the sixth for Oakland. Sean Manaea (10-8) was charged with three runs in 2 2/3 innings.

Cubs 5, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mike Montgomery pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and David Bote drove in a career-high three runs, leading the Cubs to the win.

Montgomery (4-4) picked up his first win since June 29. He is 3-0 with a 0.40 ERA in four appearances against the Royals.

Kansas City rookie Brad Keller (4-5) was removed after six innings, allowing four runs and seven hits.

The Royals have lost six

straight and are 14-43 since May 30.

Padres 11, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Manuel Margot homered, tripled, singled and drove in five runs, powering San Diego to the victory.

Franmil Reyes added three RBI for the Padres. Matt Strahm (3-3) got one out for the win.

Jesus Aguilar and Mike Moustakas staked Milwaukee to a 4-0 first-inning lead with a pair of two-run homers -- Aguilar's team-best 27th and Moustakas' 22nd and second as a Brewer.

All-Star Josh Hader (4-1) was charged with the loss after allowing two runs in 1 1/3 innings.

Astros 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Tyler White hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, helping Houston put together another late rally.

The win followed the Astros' 3-1 victory Monday night in which Marwin Gonzalez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth.

This time, the AL West leaders again trailed 1-0 when Gonzalez doubled and White hit a high, arching shot to left field off Ray Black (1-1).

The Astros have won six of seven and the Giants have lost four of five.

Joe Smith (4-1) got the win, and Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 13th save.

Rays 4, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Willy Adames hit a solo homer with two out in the ninth inning, lifting Tampa Bay to the victory.

Adames' fifth home run of the season came off Miguel Castro (2-6).

Sergio Romo (2-2) got the win after retiring two batters in the ninth, helping Tampa Bay break a three-game losing streak.

Tim Beckham and Trey Mancini homered for Baltimore, and Alex Cobb pitched seven strong innings.

Red 6, Mets 1

In New York, Cincinnati's Sal Romano got the win in his New York homecoming, pitching into the seventh inning in a game delayed by rain for 1 hour, 40 minutes in the first.

Romano (7-9) was born in Syosset on nearby Long Island and grew up in Southington, Connecticut. He allowed a run in six-plus innings, helping the Reds stop a three-game skid.

Phillip Ervin hit a two-run homer for Cincinnati and finished with three RBI.

Mets starter Jason Vargas (2-8) recorded just one out and was charged with three runs and three hits.

Rodgers frustrated with effort from some younger Packers

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers expressed disappointment with the effort from some of the Green Bay Packers' younger players after a frustrating period at practice.

It appears that some of the rookie wideouts are the focus of his displeasure.

Rodgers was running the scout team during one practice session on Tuesday, a sign that he likely won't be playing in the Packers' preseason opener on Thursday against Tennessee.

Younger players who normally may not get many reps with Rodgers got a chance to work more with the two-time NFL MVP.

There is some work to catch up to Rodgers' high standards.

"It was one of the worst cards sessions we've had. I don't know how you can make it any simpler," Rodgers said Tuesday after practice. He was referring to how coaches will



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) talks about pass patterns with tight end Marcedes Lewis (89) during the NFL football training camp Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018, at Ray Nitschke Field in Ashwaubenon, Wis.

hold up an opponent's play during the period.

"You literally have what the play would be in our terminology on the card, and the effort level was very low, especially with what I'm accustomed to. I've been running that period for a number of years," Rodgers said. "So it's not a good start for us on the card period for the young guys."

Rodgers is usually more diplomatic in front of reporters. He didn't call out any players by name, but he did make sure to single out those he feels are role models, such as veterans Davante Adams, Randall Cobb and Jimmy Graham.

Rodgers liked how Geronimo Allison and DeAngelo Yancey, younger receivers with previous experience with Rodgers, have progressed. He has also gone out of his way to praise the work of Jake Kumerow, a second-year undrafted free agent.

Conversely, the three rookie receivers that the Packers took in this year's draft—J'Mon Moore, Marquez Valdez-Scantling and Equanimeous St. Brown—may be part of that inconsistent group.

There's a purpose behind Rodgers voicing his frustration. It doesn't have all to do with sending a message to general manager Brian Gutekunst either as the Packers weigh roster decisions.

"No, that's as much for you guys (the media) as it is for that guy, to let him know that I'm watching. I'm always watching—whether I'm in the play or not in the play, when we're going back through the film," Rodgers said.

The quarterback said fatigue may be partly to blame for the subpar play. It is relatively early in camp, when players are still building stamina and getting reacclimated to the routine.

The team is coming off its high-profile Family Night practice on Saturday. They had a day off Sunday before two more days of practice.

"Well, I'm getting older and grumpier. I've been at this for a long time," said Rodgers, who turns 35 in December. "I'm tired too, we're all a little tired. When you get a little tired, the fuse gets a little shorter."

Offensive coordinator Joe Philbin said the hope is that the young receivers learn from their mistakes and correct them as the preseason progresses.

"Certainly Aaron, his comments, his example, his leadership has a profound effect on the ballclub, the offense in particular and the whole team in general," Philbin said. "His words are meaningful."

Luck to make start in preseason opener at Seattle

WESTFIELD, Ind. (AP)—Andrew Luck spent two straight offseasons contemplating how it would feel to play football again.

He'll find out Thursday night.

Coach Frank Reich announced Tuesday that Luck would start and could play most of the first quarter in the Indianapolis Colts' preseason opener at Seattle.

"I'll be excited and a little nervous," Luck acknowledged after practice. "There were one or two moments where I wondered if, 'Am I ever going to be able to do this again?'

He wasn't the only one asking that question during a nearly 600-day wait between starts. And he's not the only one who will be nervous lining up against the Seahawks' traditionally strong defense.

Much has changed since Luck performed in a televised game.

There's a new general manager and a new coach in town. There's been another

new offense installed and Luck is still trying to learn everybody's names. Even the once formidable offense has undergone a major revamp.

Rookie Quenton Nelson and free agent signee Matt Slauson have moved in as the new starting guards. Tight Eric Ebron and receiver Ryan Grant are promising new targets for Luck, who will be handing off to second-year running back Marlon Mack for the first time in a game Thursday.

Luck can't wait to see how it all works together—even if it takes an entire preseason to work out the kinks.

"Every day I feel a little bit better about my technique in those team drills," he said. "And also I feel better, I feel stronger, I feel more fit, I feel like my arm has a little more in it and a little more in it and a little more in it. I'm certainly feeling more comfortable in the offense."

That's all good news for Colts fans who cringed at the

notion their bright, young star may never return to his pre-injury form following surgery.

But after looking understandably rusty at his first training camp practice, Luck has shown indications he is getting back to his old ways.

His passes seem crisper, he's more in sync with his receivers and he's been able to complete passes consistently through smaller and smaller windows. His final throw Sunday—a 45-yarder on the run across his body for a touchdown to T.Y. Hilton in a two-minute drill—reminded Reich just how close Luck is to being completely healthy.

"We're doing end of half situation or end of game situation and he's just bailing out of there, 100 mph and that's a tough throw to kind of turn and make that," Reich said. "That's definitely checking something off (the list)."

Luck figures it's about time.

He initially hurt the right

shoulder in September 2015 against Tennessee, missed the next two games, then returned to make four more starts before sustaining a season-ending lacerated kidney.

Instead of opting for surgery immediately, Luck decided to rest the shoulder. When the pain persisted, he played through it—making 15 starts and turning in arguably his best season as a pro in 2016 before undergoing surgery.

Indy expected Luck to return last season, but he didn't start throwing till early October and was shut down two weeks later after complaining of more pain. He went on injured reserve in November and didn't resume throwing footballs again until May.

Luck ramped up his activity during summer workouts in California and finally began practicing with the starting offense for the first time in 18 months after arriving at training camp—albeit on a revised schedule that mimics his regular-season routine.

the 2021 Mini Games," Rangamar said.

Resurfacing work at the track was just completed early this year, leaving CNMI athletes a few months to train at the facility for the Micro Games.

Meanwhile, Rangamar is hoping that Commonwealth athletes get invites to compete in off-island tournaments so they could have more exposure and work on their continued development before joining the Mini Games three years from now.

TOP

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Games, athletics' Rachel Abrams and Zarinae Sapong won one gold medal each, while weightlifters Angel San Nicolas and Antonette Labauza earned three golds apiece. Swimmer Kento Akimaru also got a gold.

As for the POJC, Robbie Schorr won the boys U16 singles title in the annual competition after pulling off upsets against two higher-ranked

opponents. The CNMI junior tennis player's outstanding showing in the POJC makes him a strong candidate for the male student-athlete award.

For the female student-athlete selection, the likely candidates are athletics' Jerlyn Castillo, Jamie Pangelinan, and Therize Millare, who also brought home medals from Yap.

For the Team of the Month plum, the candidates may include the baseball and men's canoe teams, which each won a silver medal in the Micro Games.

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50m freestyle swim.

Suzuki is also doing the 50m freestyle race and it is likely that he and Batallones will be placed on the same heat. Before the sprint event, the SSC swimmer will also compete in the 100m freestyle (Friday) and 200m individual medley (Saturday) races. The start list for Friday to Sunday's events has yet to be posted on the competition website.

The tournament in Japan is Batallones and Suzuki's third for the last two months. Late in June, they were part

RANGAMAR

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and Therize Millare ran in the relays (4x100m and 4x400m) where the Commonwealth gained two bronzes. Tyler Santos, another U18 athlete on the team, also got a bronze in the 1,500m run, while Castillo notched a bronze, too, in the javelin throw.

Other medalists for the CNMI were Douglas Schmidt (silver in the triple jump and 400m run), Nick Gross (bronze in javelin throw), Rangamar said.

and Eleina Santos (bronze in 800m run and silver in the 1,500m). Sapong and Abrams added one silver each (from 100m run and 100m hurdles, respectively).

"We have several young athletes on the team and they did very well in their events. I am excited for the future ahead of them, especially in 2021 when we host the Pacific Mini Games. By that time, these athletes have matured and gained experience and they will be at their peak," Rangamar said.

The NMA official added that having the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility back will definitely work wonders for the athletes' performance in future competitions.

"Remember in our early preparation for the Micro Games, we did not have the track and we have to improvise. Now that we have the facility, we will have more time to practice and do it in an appropriate venue, and encourage more athletes to come out and be part of the team for

Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Members of the CNMI Boys U16 National Team rushes toward their goalie Jonathan Mindanao after his save sealed the Teen Ayuyus' win over Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong in a shootout in the finals of the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup last Sunday in the Philippines.



Mark Esalan pose with their championship and his MVP trophies.



Jonathan Mindanao is all smiles as he poses with their championship trophy.



CNMI players celebrate their title win.



Rintaro Miyawaki shows his Golden Boot award and the team's championship trophy.



The CNMI's Rinto Takahashi, left, attempts to deflect the ball.



CNMI and Chelsea FC players chase the ball.



The CNMI's John Michael Rojas, left, receives a pass from his teammate.



Carmelo verbally
agrees to sign
with Rockets

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Colon gets historic
win as Rangers top
Mariners

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2 CNMI swimmers to race in Tokyo



SUZUKI



BATALLONES

Rangamar excited for athletics' prospects in 2021 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Athletics Team showed a lot of promise in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap, making Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar excited for the future ahead of the Commonwealth's athletes.



"a lot of young athletes in the group," Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI collected 13 medals from the athletics competition with Rachel Abrams (high jump) and Zarinae Sapon (200m run) contributing one gold each. The athletics team also earned five silver medals and six bronzes.

Young athletes Jamie Pangelinan, Jerlyn Castillo,

See RANGAMAR on Page 26



From left, Rachel Abrams, Jamie Pangelinan, Zarinae Sapon, and Eleina Santos pose for a photo after their bronze-medal finish in the 4x100m relay race in the 9th Micronesian Games held last month in Yap.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Nelson Batallones left the island for Japan last Tuesday morning to represent the CNMI in the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships 2018.

Suzuki and Batallones will have four events each in the competition that will start today and run until Sunday at the Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tokyo. The two Commonwealth swimmers will be racing against the representatives of Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Oman, Thailand, Australia,

China, Guam, Palau, U.S., Bahamas, the Cook Islands, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

The 15-year-old Suzuki will compete in the 100m breaststroke qualifying race today. He is on Heat 1 and the youngest among



the eight swimmers in his group. Suzuki will be up against China's Yunsong Liu, Australia's Zac Stubblety-Cook, the U.S.' Lawrence Wilson and Charles Andrew, and Canada's Richard Funk and Eli Wall. The 100m breaststroke event has one more heat.

Meanwhile, Batallones will also see action in the opening day of the tournament, as he is entered on Heat 1 of the 200m freestyle event. He will be racing against Guam's Mark Imazu, Palau's Noel Keane, the Philippines' Jason Jarod Hatch and Armand Pierre Chan, and Oman's Samir Hammi Al Adawi Issa. There are four other heats in the 200m freestyle event.

After his opening event, the 15-year-old Batallones will have the 200m butterfly race tomorrow and then the 100m butterfly this Saturday before concluding his participation in the Pan Pac on Sunday via the

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Top athletes honors at stake tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH Northern Marianas Sports Association will have its monthly meeting tonight with the selection of the top athlete awardees for July at the forefront of its agenda.

Nominees for the Male and Female Athletes of the Month and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Student Male and Female Athletes of the Month will come from the participants in the two big off-island tournaments the CNMI competed in—the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap and the 2018 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

In the past years, NMSA

handed the monthly awards to the gold medal winners in the Micro Games, however the final decision on the selection

of athletes will still depend on the votes of the attendees of tonight's meeting at 7pm at the conference room of the

Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. In last month's Micro

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Antonette Labausa competes in the weightlifting event in last month's 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.